



SPRINGFIELD'S IGNITE MENTORING THROUGH MUSIC PROGRAM

Igniting the joy of music, Springfield students, staff, and SPS graduate instructors rise up together to mentor the next generation of creative leaders. Once a month, music students and educators from Springfield elementary, middle, and high schools gather at the Community Music School of Springfield to build mentoring relationships, rehearse together, eat together, and unite as Springfield's IGNITE Program. The program culminates in a special performance for families at the end of the year and serves as a consistent pathway to engage and support students and staff across all Springfield instrumental music programs.

MISSION

As proud students from Springfield, Massachusetts, we bring together our individual strengths and talents to form a family united by common goals.

We desire to create an environment through music that will challenge and motivate students to develop mentoring relationships and strive for excellence in all facets of their lives.

We are dedicated to the principles of leadership, unity, pride, trust, self-discipline, responsibility, critical thinking, and creativity through the study and performance of music.

VISION

We value the arts as a dynamic force that enriches the lives of students, their families, our schools, and our entire community. Springfield will be acknowledged as a distinctive center for arts education where students are empowered to lead and create, and every student in every school has equal access to high-quality, culturally relevant, standards-based, sequential arts programs.

GOALS

- Arts access for every student, 24,000 students.
- Develop art, dance, music, and/or theater programs in every school.
- Unite Springfield schools, visual & performing arts students, and educators.
- Build after-school arts programming that extends classroom learning.
- Inspire our community and engage community partners.
- Empower student leaders and encourage collaboration among Springfield students by providing peer mentoring experiences.
- Provide meaningful arts opportunities to ALL Springfield students, regardless of socioeconomic status, access to transportation, or experience.
- Caring about the whole child's well-being, we want Springfield students to connect through the arts and become champions for each other.

DISTRICT PRIORITIES & PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE LEAD PILLAR

- Middle School Transformation, College & Career Readiness, Post-Secondary Success
- "I will lead with confidence, empathy and kindness in my family, my community, in Springfield, and beyond."

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM GOALS

- Strengthen Springfield instrumental music programs by providing high-quality music instruction and peer mentoring experiences to students in those programs.
- Develop new and sustainable instrumental programs across all Springfield schools.

INSTRUMENTS

All instruments will be provided to students by their school music teacher. If additional instruments are needed, other schools or the district will help provide them. There are currently enough instruments throughout our district to cover all schools for Phase #1 & 2 of the plan.

EDUCATOR ATTENDANCE & PAYMENT

Educators will get principal approval and coordinate payment from their individual school budgets. The district will raise funds and contribute most of the funding to run the program, including transportation, food, college mentors, rehearsal space, performance space, and additional instruments if needed, totaling over \$60,000. Individual schools are only asked to fund their educator's time, totaling less than \$2,000. This is a great deal for schools and benefits all students.

All music educators from participating schools will attend each session (or send a representative substitute teacher in their place). All educators will provide support during each mentoring session and there will be a rotation of rehearsal leaders each month. Educators will be paid by their school for their time using the standard hourly rate of \$50 per hour. Each session includes 3.5 hours for high school teachers (\$175), 3 hours for middle school (\$150), and 2.5 hours for elementary school (\$125). The final performance will include an additional 5 hours per teacher. Total yearly payments include \$1,825 for high school teachers, \$1,600 for middle school, and \$1,375 for elementary school.

SPS GRADUATE MENTORS

Select SPS graduate IGNITE mentors will be available to support students and music staff. Graduate mentors will receive a stipend through an active grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

PHASES

Phase #1: IGNITE: Mentoring Through Music Pilot Program (2024-2025)

Phase #2: Add more schools & build additional instrumental programs (2025-2026)

Phase #3: Build IGNITE Mentoring Programs in all arts disciplines using Phase #1 & Phase #2 as a model (2026-2027)

Phase #4: Unite all art disciplines, including music, art, dance, theater, and media arts.

PHASE 1 & 2 SCHOOLS

High Schools: SciTech, Central, Conservatory of the Arts, Springfield Honors Academy

Middle Schools: Conservatory of the Arts, Duggan, Impact Prep, South End, STEM, Zanetti

Elementary Schools: Boland, Bradley, Gerena, Glickman, Harris, Lynch, White Street, Zanetti

**Additional Schools TBD*

CALENDAR

9 Sessions + Performance, October-April

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

Wednesday, April 1, 2026

Wednesday, April 8, 2026 (Dress Rehearsal)

Performance Date TBD – Either Tuesday, April 14th, Wednesday, April 15th, or Thursday, April 16th

BUS DEPARTURE SCHEDULE

1:45pm: High Schools: SciTech, Central, Springfield Honors Academy
2:15pm: Middle Schools: Duggan, Impact Prep, STEM, South End, Zanetti
3:40pm: Elementary Schools: Boland, Bradley, Gerena, Glickman, Harris, Lynch, White Street
Walkers - 2:30pm: Conservatory of the Arts

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Buses Depart Schools

Snacks will be available to students at their school before they depart.

1:45pm: High School Buses Depart (Group 1)
2:15pm: Middle School & Zanetti Buses Depart (Group 2)
3:40pm: Elementary School Buses Depart (Group 3)

Arrival @ Community Music School of Springfield

2:30pm: High School Arrival (Group 1)
2:45pm: Middle School & Zanetti Arrival (Group 2)
4:00pm: Elementary School Arrival (Group 3)

Pre-Rehearsal

2:35pm: Meeting with High School Mentors (Group 1) (Review Rehearsal Goal & Expectations)
2:45pm: High School Mentors (Group 1) welcome Middle Schools & Zanetti (Group 2)
3:00pm: Warm Up (Group 1 & 2), Mentor Rehearsal, & Family Bonding Activity
4:00pm: Group 1 & 2 welcome Elementary Schools (Group 3) and help everyone get set for the Full Ensemble Meeting

Rehearsal

4:10pm: Full Ensemble Meeting (Set Rehearsal Goal & Expectations)
4:15pm: Full Ensemble Rehearsal & Peer Mentoring

Dinner, Mentoring Time, & Dismissal

5:10pm: Pizza & Mentor Mingle Time
5:30pm: Buses depart; families pick students up at school (closer to 6:00pm)
5:40pm: Families pick students up directly at Community Music School (optional)

OTHER SCHOOLS

If former IGNITE students currently attend a Springfield school that does not yet have a music program (like their previous school), these students are still eligible to participate in IGNITE again. These students should (1) register, (2) arrange to get dropped off at the Community Music School by their families after school during each IGNITE session, or (3) arrange to walk or get dropped off at another participating school after school so the bus can take them to the Community Music School of Springfield.

REHEARSAL SPACE

Community Music School of Springfield

SPRINGFIELD
Visual & Performing Arts

