

To: Islesboro Central School Committee
Fr: Jess Woods, School Counselor
Re: Credit Awarding for High School Art and Music
Cc: Patrick Phillips, Lisa Freeman, John Oldham

Last year when I arrived at ICS I discovered that High School Fine Art and Music classes are only awarded partial credit each semester due to the instructors being employed 4/5th time. I would like to request that this policy be revised and that students be awarded a full ½ credit for each semester of enrollment, based on the following factors:

On average, each class meets 43 times per semester, for 70 minutes each, so a total of 50 hours. If students miss one class every other week, they miss an average of 9 per semester, which is 10.5 hours of class.

For students who do not have a passion for the fine arts, in order to meet our graduation requirement of 1 credit they must take an entire year of fine art, plus at least one additional semester, which can cause significant scheduling difficulties.

Band/Chorus:

- Students enrolled in Chorus and Band also participate in these activities during Academy time once a week, and do not receive credit for the academy time commitment
- Concerts and Concert Rehearsals are an integral part of this program and those hours are not factored in when considering time lost on Mr. Oldham's off Wednesdays.

Fine Art (High School Art, Ceramics, Photography)

- Lisa will assign work to be done independently on the Friday that her high school classes meet to make up for lost instructional time
- Of the 9 missed classes on Blue Friday's, 4 of them are holidays for the entire school, therefore students who are in art class on Blue days are only missing 5 additional class periods for an entire semester