


**MEMO**

TO: Keystone Council   
FROM: Diane Walker  
RE: Attached Memo From Music Department  
DATE: 4/10/96

I received the attached memo several months ago. I had intended to bring it up at our concern meetings, but missed the opportunity. I would like Keystone to address this on Friday. Please look over the memo and come prepared to share your comments.

Thanks!

To: Keystone Council  
From: The Music Department  
Re: Policy on NCHS Classroom Audits  
Cc: Maria Coolican, Bill Ducett, J.D. Hawkins

In practice University High School allows students to audit courses at NCHS for no credit. While, in many cases, this is beneficial to U-High and its students, this practice can be detrimental to the music department.<sup>1</sup> We propose that University High School adopts a written policy which states that students cannot audit a class at another institution if U-High offers an equivalent course. Such a statement would complement those policies already found in the Student/Parent Handbook under the headings "Other Coursework" and "University Classes for High School Credit" (p. 40).

Usually a student must have a schedule conflict to get permission to audit an NCHS course U-High offers; however, in at least one case this year, a student admitted to intentionally creating a schedule conflict as a way to get permission to audit orchestra at NCHS. Although allowing NCHS audits is an easy solution to schedule conflicts, this practice implies that U-High would rather send its students elsewhere than to develop solutions within our master schedule that allow us to educate U-High students at U-High.

George York, the Unit 5 Music Department Head, says that his administration does not encourage U-High students to audit classes at NCHS, but it seems NCHS does not have set rules regulating audits. To prevent conflicts, U-High needs its own written policy. Otherwise, the Music Department can do little to protect programs from direct competition for students with other area schools. I.H.S.A. does not allow students to compete in another school's music ensemble; however, most of our music contests are not I.H.S.A. sponsored. In addition, we find several gray areas--such as IMEA District and All-State qualification as well as B-N Youth Symphony - -in which activities require students to be members of their own school's music program.

During this school year audit issues have come up several times in regards to Orchestra. Our orchestra program is unquestionably smaller and weaker than Unit 5's. But, if we allow our string students to take orchestra at NCHS, we guarantee that our orchestra will always be smaller and weaker because our ability to attract and retain dedicated students will be crippled.

Finally, when students enroll at U-High they become members of the U-High community. By participating in our musical activities, students learn and grow with their peers. Participation in musical activities at another school denies students these opportunities to contribute to and gain from the U-High community.

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<sup>1</sup> This practice may be potentially problematic for all electives.