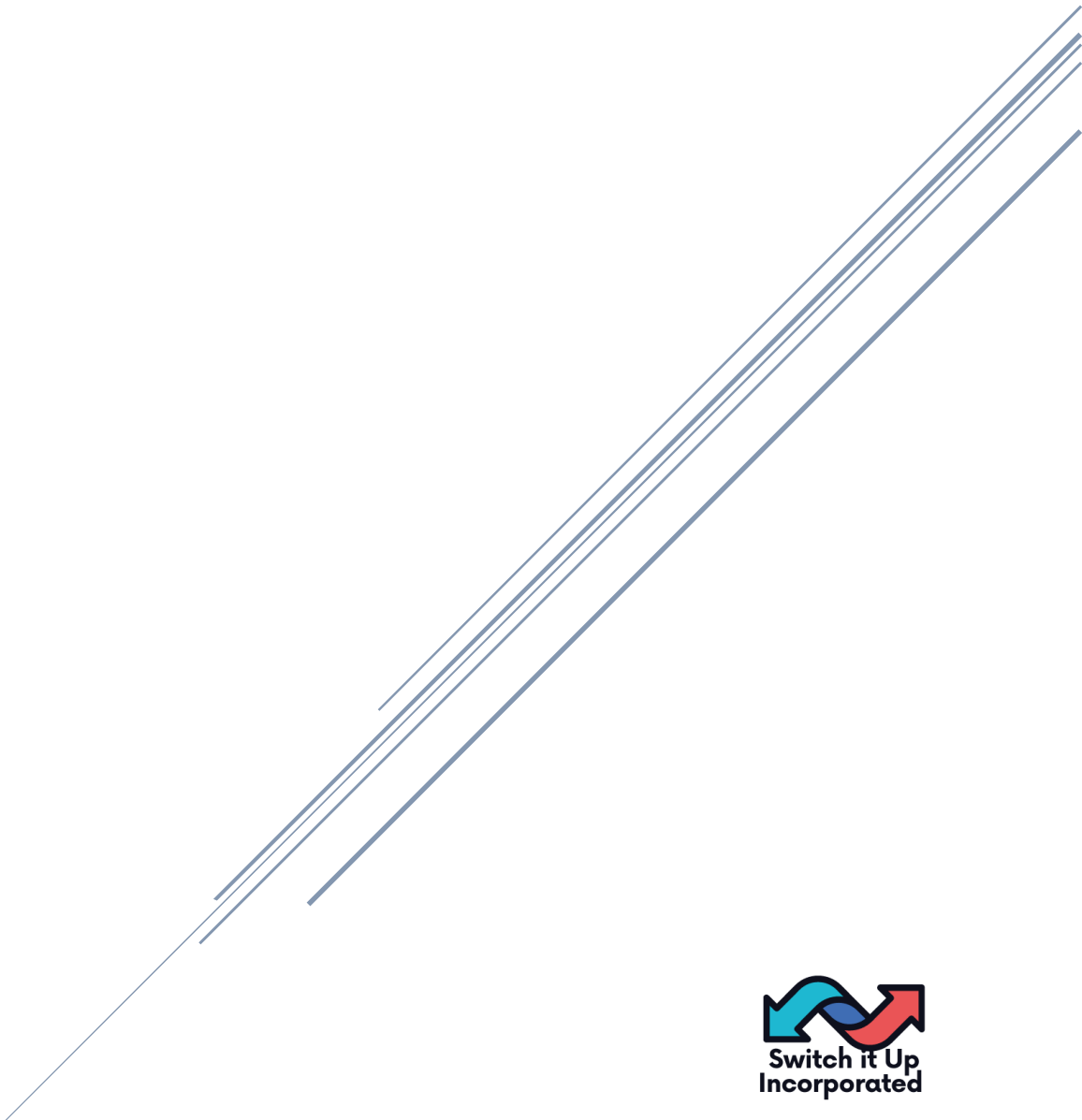


SWITCH IT UP CORPORATION

Northern Neck Public School Budget Analysis





Northern Neck Public
Schools

1357 Colonial Drive

Prince William, VA 22191

March 31, 2021

Taryn Pullen
President
Switch It Up Incorporated
2468 Smith Street
Ashland OH, 44805

Dear Ms. Pullen:

Subject: School Budget Analysis

Because of the decrease in our finances, Northern Neck Public Schools has decided to come to you for some help. We would like to increase our finances so we can have the resources we had to cut. We cut art and music, tutoring, and extra- curricular activities.

We are asking you all to plan a school budget analysis for us and give us the plans we need to succeed. We want our students to have art and music, so they can explore new things. We want our students to have tutors available so they can get the help they need. And we want our students to have extra- curricular activities available so they can build many beneficial skills.

We would like to have this school budget analysis ready by July 26, 2021, for our upcoming school year. We want this year to be our rise of success for our students and our school system. To ensure we have time to look over our budget analysis and use your recommendations, we would like to receive your budget analysis by May 24, 2021.

We look forward to receiving your analysis. If you have any questions, please contact our Secretary McKenzie Crews at mckenzie.crews@NNPS.com.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Wilson

Daniel Wilson
President



2468 Smith Street
Ashland OH, 44805

May 20, 2021

Daniel Wilson
School Board President
Northern Neck Public Schools
1357 Colonial Drive
Prince William, VA 22191

Dear Mr. Wilson:

Subject: School Budget Analysis Completed

We were hired by Northern Neck Public Schools to come in and help them get their resources together. Northern Neck Public Schools provides resources to teachers, parents, and students on information for attending this public school if you are or have a child in K-12th grade. They want us to focus on three major resources that they are limited to.

We have chosen to cover these three areas:

- Art/Music
- Tutoring Opportunities
- After-School Events

Thank you to the Northern Neck Public School that hired us to address the current funding issues. We are glad to offer further information for any of the resources we are gathering.

Yours Sincerely,

Taryn Pullen

Taryn Pullen

President

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Executive Summary

Northern Neck Public School system is preparing to create their budget for the 2021-2022 school year. Based on feedback from parents, faculty and staff during school-board meetings, Switch It Up Incorporated has been asked to provide a budget analysis to identify areas where additional funding is needed.

Our goal is to analyze the following categories of art/ music, tutoring, and extracurriculars at Northern Neck Public School based on the following criteria. Northern Neck Public School is facing funding issues in three categories and they hired us to come in and help them get resources. Providing these resources to teachers, parents, and students on the information for attending this public school if you are or have a child in K-12th grade.

Northern Neck Public School plans to create a budget analysis that will give us more insight into what next year will look like with our recommendations. These plans will provide resources for the students to have sports, music, and tutoring opportunities. Increased funding in art and music will allow the individuals to explore new musical interests, tutoring will provide these individuals the opportunity to get additional help in certain subjects. Extra-curricular activities will improve a child's mental, emotional, and social health.

The results of our analysis, which were supported by the figures in the Northern Neck Public School budget,

- Hire skilled educators in the fields covered
- Plan fundraisers
- Send surveys out to parents, teachers and students to receive feedback
- Develop a financial plan

We are confident that our analysis and recommendations will support the needs of the

Northern Neck Public School System

Introduction

Northern Neck Public School System is a school system placed in Prince William County for over fifty years. Within the past ten years, the school board has received a series of complaints placed through open forum school board meetings about improving the student life. Minor changes have been made to the budget over these years but, the anticipated results have not been seen.

Switch it Up Incorporated has been hired to come in and aid them in their budget for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year. Northern Neck Public Schools provides resources to teachers, parents, and students on information for attending this public school if you are or have a child in K-12th grade. They want us to focus on three major resources they are hoping to improve upon based on the complaints presented to them.

Switch it Up Incorporated specializes in education and budgeting. Based in Virginia, we have been in business for the past twenty years. Our company has helped create budgets for various school systems both in and out of state, including Chesapeake Public Schools and Los Angeles Unified School District.

For this report, we looked at arts and music, tutoring, and extra-curricular activities and located the issue within each area as to why funding should be increased, as well as addressed the developmental aspects and identifying what the school system could look like with the improvements added to the school system.

The Arts and Music

The arts remain a large debate in many school systems about whether to keep or remove them. At Northern Neck Public Schools (NNPS) it was observed that funding was limited in the arts, in many fiscal reports being the last to receive it. It is understood that funding is taken to a local level and often based on test scores reported to the United States Department of Education. While budgets being left to a local level leaves room for the school board to create the educational environment, they see fit, although this leaves room for some programs to fall through the cracks, one that was found was the arts and music.

Development

Early childhood education comprises three things: music, visual arts, and pretend play (Ko 40). Currently, students are exposed to the arts once a week through a rotation of enrichment courses. For the kindergarten through intermediate levels, these involve many studio courses surrounding color theory and grasping the utensils for coloring. These classes are more focused on allowing children to discover the concept of aesthetics. Aesthetics play a large part in childhood development as “taste is determined by the children [grow up in]” (Ko 40) and it is up to the educator “to continuously present and develop their own images and attach their values to them” (Ko 40). As they move up in their classes, their sense of aesthetics will grow as their values change. Once the basic foundation is laid down, they learn more advanced techniques and the artists behind them. Knowledge of the artists touches upon the subjects of history and literary analysis as the students have to observe the techniques the artist is using and apply them to their projects.

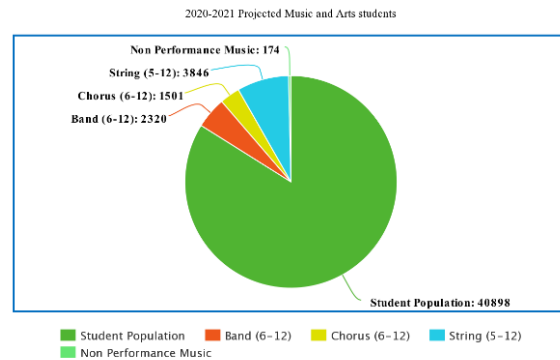


Figure 1: Music compared to student population

In music classes, students are introduced to music theory, such as rhythm and percussion instruments, such as the drums and xylophone. Around second grade, they are introduced to the recorder after developing the fine motor skills needed to play the instrument. Learning instruments teaches and encourages children to take part in exploration and performing. Many instruments are easy for children to pick up and start grasping the basic concepts of rhythm and intonation. As the children move into fifth grade, they have the option to choose an art-based elective separate from their usual rotation of classes. Within the options, they can take orchestra, band, or chorus and can take theater classes in high school for credit.

The Issue

Currently in Northern Neck Public Schools, of the actual enrollment rates in the 2020-2021 school year while 22,146 students went to the career and technical school, 8000 took music in

some form leaving a small percent of the school population to be in the arts but not enrolled in a music course. With approximately 11.8% of the county's student population in the arts, there is room for growth for that number to increase in upcoming years. While the music department in the middle and high school levels have educators that were trained in multiple instruments and have the qualifications to teach, it was found in the non-music-based classes that many qualified instructors were lacking. Often in the theater classes across all levels, there are English teachers being put in charge of theater. This causes issues where many skills that revolve around the art, such as public speaking, working as a team, and time management. While students can learn this in other classes, theater as an art reinforces these skills as actors are made to speak continually in front of an audience and theater being a collaborative art.

With Improvements

If funding were to increase in the arts and music, NNPS would rank higher among the state school systems. It has been proven across multiple studies that schools who have strong art-based programs are strong in academics across the board (Winner 5). In the arts, students have the chance to “learn persistence, revision, close observation and so on” (Winner 5). These skills are taught through the students having to learn that they are not required to know how to do everything after one attempt. Music, theater, studio art are things that take discipline and practice to perfection. Also, students will gain a wider view of the world around them in a way that a traditional classroom cannot provide.

Extra-Curriculars

The Issue

In many states, there are schools that cannot afford afternoon sports, activities or clubs due to lack of funding. Unfortunately, because of this, many schools must decide what sports and clubs should be eliminated from the school. There are many students that would like to take part in extracurricular activities, allowing them to engage socially non-classroom setting. Parents could benefit from this as well because many of them send their children to other afternoon activities in the community. By providing these activities it will allow the parents to not have to worry about transportation or leaving work early to pick up their children. It is known that “young people benefit greatly from sports and the performing arts and the opportunity for extra-curricular activities help them grow in their understanding of giving and generosity; life skills necessary to promote a giving and caring culture” (Hobbs).

Voluntary Student Activities/Clubs (2020-2021)			
	Level I	Level II	Level III
Honor Societies	\$15	\$15	\$15
Special Interest	\$5-\$15	\$5-\$15	\$5-\$15
Community Service Groups	\$15	\$15	\$15
Model United Nations	\$15	\$15	\$15
ROTC	\$20	\$20	\$20

Table 1: Voluntary Student Activities (2020-2021)

Above, in Table 1, we have voluntary student activities in the 2020–2021 school year, representing some budgets for the extra-curricular activities. Northern Neck Public School should discuss options for incorporating additional sports, clubs and activities for the students and what additional funds could be given. The first option would be to provide additional time during their physical education class period. This would allow the students to go outside and play a sport with their peers and engage more socially. The second option would be to provide field trips for students that allow them to adventure into the community to learn about different sports, organizations, or events going on. This could be musical performances, such as band or theater performance. This will provide the students the option to take certain classes that provide these events that they can enjoy and learn more about it.

With Improvements Added

It has concluded that many students use after-school programs as a safety net, which means they can do something they enjoy or get away from a home life that is not privileged as others.

Northern Neck Public School should develop a financing plan that includes funding from federal, state and local government. This plan will allow us to determine financial plans to discuss and improve after-school activities. The financial plan will be based on sports that provide acute interest, such as football, soccer, baseball, and softball. Next, will be clubs such as theater, and band that students find interesting. The plan will allow these activities to receive additional funding, as it is seen that students will benefit from these programs. It is important that Northern Neck Public Schools fix funding for these programs because it benefits the students in ways of being social, understanding teamwork, diversity and respect.

Tutoring

There are many school systems that don't have tutoring available. Unfortunately, that is because of funding. Tutoring should be available for students that need additional help in their core subjects. All parents want for their kids is for them to have a great education. Parents want their kids to succeed in life, so by having tutoring available this will cause less stress, because for one they know their kids will get the help they need to succeed and two they won't have to worry about paying for it or not having the money for it.

The Issue

This issue occurs at Northern Neck Public Schools (NNPS). The funding is low and there is no tutoring available to students. NNPS follows No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 and they want to allow their students to have ways to achieve in their education by having tutoring options. Table 2 below is an example of how tutoring is beneficial. Table 2 shows the decrease in students for summer school. Tutoring can lower the number of kids that enroll in summer school.

	2018-2019	2019-2021 Actual	2020-2021 (Projected)	2021-2022 (Projected)
Secondary Summer School Students Enrolled	1,597	1,352	1,600	1,379
Elementary Summer School Students enrolled	2,420	1,834	2,450	1,871
ESL Students Enrolled	1,387	1,427	1,525	1,678

Table 2: Summer School Enrollment

With Improvements

Through implementing regular tutoring sessions, students can develop interpersonal skills, communication skills, learning skills, as well as increase study habits, improve self-esteem, and become independent learners. For the school system, if this issue is test scores will increase, it will strengthen subject comprehension, boost students' confidence, no distractions will keep students on track, and they can have one-on-one time with a teacher.

Ways to Implement

There are four ways that Northern Neck can implement this if funding cannot be provided immediately. The first option is seeing if there are people in the county who will volunteer to be a tutor. The next option is to reach out to universities surrounding them that have aspiring teachers and see if they will volunteer to be a tutor. The third option is seeing if the teachers in

their schools will stay after on certain days to tutor. And the last option is to get the county to fundraise so they can pay the tutors.

Northern Neck could do a trial run for each one for a month. The first month option one will be tested where emails, phone call recordings, and fliers sent out around the country to see if there are any people willing to volunteer to be a tutor. For next month, option two will be tested. Northern Neck will send out emails to the surrounding universities and see if there are any aspiring teachers who will volunteer to be a tutor. In the third month, meetings will be held with all the teachers in the county and see if there are any who will tutor on certain days. The fourth month Northern Neck Public Schools can come up with a list of different fundraising they can do. They will send out emails, newsletter, and phone call recordings to see if people will donate money and to give out the options of what type of fundraising they will do and why they want to raise money for tutoring.

Northern Neck Public Schools should have two primary goals to get accomplished with these options. The first goal they want to accomplish is to raise money for the tutors who will work hard to help give the students the extra help they need, and the second goal is for them to find tutors so students can succeed in their education. Northern Neck wants to allow everyone to see this issue and take it into consideration and help fix this issue in all school systems.

Conclusions

Arts and Music

In conclusion, if Northern Neck Public Schools wish to see improvement across their academics, it would be in their best interest to increase the funding towards the arts. With the increased funding towards the arts, children in their youngest age group will develop the fine motor skills necessary to excel in their future education, as well as reinforce the importance of exploration. Further, those in the older groups will learn the importance of discipline, analysis, and persistence.

Extra-Curriculars

Overall, Northern Neck Public School should work on improving their financial plan by incorporating all aspects that not only could benefit students but as well as parents and faculty and staff. As a school, we hope to receive funding from the government that will allow us to show them the benefits these programs will bring to the Northern Neck Public School. Once the financial plan has been reviewed, we will make an announcement and review any additional comments from students, parents and faculty and staff.

Tutoring

In Conclusion, Northern Neck Public Schools should provide tutors for their students. Having tutors available will help benefit the students that need it. They want the best for their students and they do not want parents to stress over trying to find a tutor and to pay for a tutor. NNPS hopes to find the best option for tutors for their students. In hopes of more funds at NNPS for tutoring, they hope to raise enough money to pay the tutors.

Recommendations

Arts and Music

We recommend that Northern Neck Public Schools do the following:

- Replace and repair instruments where needed
- Communicate with the Parent Teacher Association and plan a fundraiser
- Hire skilled educators in the fields covered
- Add incentive for children and parents to take the arts early on

Extra-Curriculars

We recommend that Northern Neck Public Schools do the following:

- Plan fundraisers
- Get feedback on the financial plan
- Send survey out
- Check funding from local, state and federal options

Tutoring

We recommend that Northern Neck Public Schools do the following:

- Send Surveys out to parents, teachers, students, and the county
- Plan auctions to raise money
- Plan fundraisers
- Plan tutoring courses

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