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The Second Front Page

Students Ask High School To Save Course

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If Lexington District One decided to drop advanced calculus, how many hearts might be broken? Yet the school district, one of the top districts in the state, does not plan to continue teaching advanced placement music theory, a course which carried college credit with it.

The district, like others in South Carolina, is struggling with cuts in state financing that led to a decision to cut positions.

But Ashley Wells, Jennifer Wilson and Mark Harmon are distressed that music theory, taught at Lexington High School by Dr. Elisa Moskowitz, and another music course are being axed.



Photo by
Jerry Bellune

Lexington High Senior Ashley Wells, with oboe, and junior Jennifer Wilson, with flute, want District One to continue teaching advanced placement music theory.

"For a musician, theory is the ABCs of music," said Jennifer Wilson, a junior taking the course this year. Ashley Wells, a senior who took the course last year, said the course helped her improve as a musician. "I wasn't just playing music but understanding it," she said.

With the help of Ashley's father, Ron Wells, a website designer, the three students have created the website, www.theorymatters.com. In just a few weeks, more than 300 visitors have signed up to help save the course and the site's guest book has been signed by people all over the United States who support public school music education.



The web address is www.theorymatters.com

In a letter to District One Supt. Karen Woodward three weeks before graduation, Ashley Wells credited Dr. Moskowitz and the course with making it possible for her to compete for admission to some of the finest music schools in the country.

"My musical education has not only let me indulge my passion for music, but has also taught me invaluable lessons of leadership and character. It has also inspired me to become a music teacher. As you probably know, admission to colleges has become increasingly competitive. I am extremely thankful that the District has provided me with the extra 'edge' I need to succeed."

Ashley said she has received numerous personal letters from teachers and visitors from Germany, Italy, Belgium, Canada and the United States.

Both Ashley and Jennifer said Dr. Moskowitz is such an effective and inspiring teacher that over 12 years, 100% of her students have passed the advanced placement test.