



WEST MICHIGAN SYMPHONY

SCOTT SPECK | MUSIC DIRECTOR

West Michigan Symphony Tune Up Program- Teaching Artist Position 2025-2026

Tune Up Program Overview:

WMS's Tune Up after-school string program fills a gap in the local education system. Tune Up launched its inaugural year the fall of 2022. It is based on *El Sistema*, a visionary global orchestra movement that provides instrumental music education to underserved youth, developing the life skills and habits that lead to successful lives. Like other programs based on this model, Tune Up offers two or more hours of instruction per week. Students receive free use of a musical instrument, learn to play that instrument, participate in ensemble and sectional lessons, build friendships, and receive music and academic support from teaching artists and qualified staff.

The program takes place in partnership with Muskegon Public Schools as part of the 21st CCLC Impact program, which provides after-school academic support and enrichment opportunities. Tune Up leverages Impact's already established safe, supportive environment—including tutoring, snacks and fellowship—while adding a needed musical element.

Description

The Part Time String Teaching Artist provides violin, viola (cello optional for middle school) for beginning students in elementary grades 3, 4, 5 at an assigned(s) school. If assigned the middle school it would be grades 6, 7, and 8. This position may be filled by one or more part time Teaching Artists.

The position is 6 hours per week, (includes teaching time, lesson planning time and other events) Schedule is determined by the CCLC Impact schedule and Teaching Artist availability- runs September through May. Concerts, Student Showcases, staff and Impact meetings, summer programs, preparation time and other Tune Up related work, would also be part of paid wages. Professional development classes, seminars or web-based sessions if offered, will be expected, and paid for by the WMS.

Responsibilities:

As a Teaching Artist, you must be able to demonstrate proficient performance techniques, as well as communication skills. Knowledge of orchestral instrumental performance and pedagogical practices and their implementation are a must. The primary responsibility of the instructor is to teach group lessons and oversee all rehearsals. Reporting to Tune Up Program Manager, the Teaching Artist will be expected to carry out, deliver, and teach the Tune Up curriculum and defined teaching objectives.

Position Qualifications/Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience in music (orchestral strings), music education, or related field.
- Passion for impacting students' lives through music, especially underserved or at-risk youth.
- Prior experience teaching school age children.
- Desire to work collaboratively with multiple Impact and Tune Up teaching staff
- Mastery of your primary instrument (violin, viola, cello).
- Ability to work well on a team.
- Effective and equity-driven classroom management techniques.
- Strong attention to detail.
- Ability to work well in a racially and culturally diverse community.
- Be flexible and adaptable as the program grows and changes to the needs of students.
- Welcomes feedback as a means to personal and professional growth,
- Must be able to lift and move up to 50 lbs, and will be expected to assist with moving equipment pertinent to general operations.

Status: Part Time

Location: Muskegon Public Schools

Hours: 6 hours teaching and planning time, may have additional hours during concert or event weeks. Part time hours will be expected in the summer for professional development, Impact summer camp, or other duties regarding the Tune Up program.

Salary: Commensurate with experience

Benefits: n/a