



# BUTLER MIDDLE SCHOOL

## *Instrumental Music Department*

April 1, 2020

Dear Prospective Instrumental Music Parents,

In May, the Butler Middle School music staff will be working with fourth graders to join the Instrumental Music Program. The fourth graders will select an instrument to play at the end of this school year, but will actually begin instrumental music lessons in the fall of their fifth grade year. This process will enable the students to get started earlier in the fall. We have a tradition of excellence with instrumental music in Butler and look forward to starting another group of talented musicians!

**This year we have made an informational video explaining how to get involved with instrumental music at Butler Middle School.** As you watch at your leisure, we will be discussing the details of how to join the Instrumental Music Program and explain the process of trying an instrument. The video is posted on the Butler Area School District website—**directions for watching this video are located on the next page of this packet.**

Any interested student will be scheduled for an instrument fitting. The purpose of this fitting is to determine if the student's physical attributes match the instrument that they desire to play. During the fitting, each student will be shown how to hold and make a sound on the instrument of their choice. Music representatives from Johnstonbaugh's Music Center and Butler music teachers will be available to help you and your child select the right instrument. Parents are welcome to attend the fitting with your child, but it is not required.

This packet of information includes a registration form. Please take a moment to fill it out and have your child return it to their classroom teacher by May 7, 2020. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jana Karenbauer

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Mr. Matthew Eckert

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***Please mark your calendars today!***

**EMILY BRITTAIN FITTINGS**

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

8:30 – 11:00 AM in music room

**CENTER TOWNSHIP FITTINGS**

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

8:00 AM – 3:00 PM in music room

**NORTHWEST FITTINGS**

Thursday, May 21, 2020

8:00 – 11:30 AM on stage or Room 14

**CONNOQUENNESSING FITTINGS**

Thursday, May 21, 2020

12:30 – 3:00 PM on stage

**MCQUISTION FITTINGS**

Friday, May 22, 2020

8:00 – 11:30 AM on stage

**SUMMIT FITTINGS**

Friday, May 22, 2020

12:40 – 3:00 PM in music room

**DIRECTIONS FOR SIGNING UP FOR A FITTING FOR YOUR CHILD:**

1. Go to the Butler district webpage <https://www.basdk12.org/>
2. Click on [Activities](#) on the top RIGHT.
3. Click on [Music](#).
4. On the left side under [Quick Links](#), click on [Middle School Instrumental Music](#).
5. Click on the link for your [elementary school](#).
6. Select a time. In a shaded box, put your child's name, room #, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> instrument choices. Five students can be scheduled for each 20-minute fitting. If you have any questions please call 5730.

**Please watch the BUTLER MIDDLE SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC VIDEO!**

1. Go to the Butler district webpage <https://www.basdk12.org/>
2. Click on [Activities](#) on the top RIGHT.
3. Click on [Music](#).
4. On the left side under [Quick Links](#), click on [Middle School Instrumental Music](#).

On this page you will be able to watch the instrumental music video, as well as...

- ✓ *Sign up for an instrument fitting at your elementary school*
- ✓ *Sample the instrument sounds at the Dallas Symphony Orchestra website*
- ✓ *Sample Grades 5 -12 Instrumental Music Ensembles in the Butler Area School District*

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **DOES PARTICIPATION IN THE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM COST MONEY?**

Yes. The lessons are provided at no cost. However, the school only provides a limited number of certain instruments: oboe, bass clarinet, tenor saxophone, French horn, baritone horn, viola, and cello. Parents will need to provide reeds for the oboe (\$13), bass clarinet (\$3), and tenor saxophone (\$3).

ALL STUDENTS WILL NEED TO PURCHASE A LESSON BOOK TO TAKE LESSONS:

- *Wind Instruments—Accent on Achievement*
- *Percussion—Performing*

*Percussionist*

- *String Instruments—Essential Elements for Strings*

The cost to rent an instrument runs between \$25 and \$75 (depending on the instrument) for the initial three-month trial period, then monthly payments thereafter.

## **WHAT INSTRUMENTS ARE TAUGHT?**

Band Instruments – flute, oboe, clarinet, bass clarinet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone horn, and percussion (bell kit).

String Instruments – violin, viola, cello, and bass.

## **WHEN WOULD MY CHILD HAVE INSTRUMENT LESSONS?**

Group lessons are during the regular school day. Students are pulled out of their regularly scheduled classes one day per week.

## **WHERE CAN I RENT AN INSTRUMENT?**

- May's Music Shoppe, Butler
- Johnstonbaugh's Music Center, Allison Park

Other stores offer rental programs as well—you may use the store of your choice. Please feel free to ask about other companies.

## **WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT OF PLAYING AN INSTRUMENT IN THE PROGRAM?**

A commitment to practice four to five days per week is necessary in order to be successful on an instrument. Please seriously consider your child's study needs and involvement in other extracurricular activities.

## **WHY DOES MY CHILD NEED TO BE FITTED FOR AN INSTRUMENT?**

At the fitting we will look at physical size, teeth structure, braces, lip size, length of fingers, and arm length. A student gets a feel for what it is like to play a certain instrument.

## **DO PARENTS HAVE TO COME TO THE FITTING?**

Although it is not required for a parent to attend the fitting, it is encouraged. It is helpful to see why certain instruments might be better suited for your child than others. If you do not attend, your child will still be able to be fitted for an instrument choice. A form will be sent home to let you know what instrument was the best match for your child.

***WHAT IF I ALREADY HAVE AN INSTRUMENT AVAILABLE FOR MY CHILD TO PLAY?***

If you bring your instrument to the fitting we can check it to make sure it is in excellent playing condition.

***MY CHILD HAS BEEN TAKING PRIVATE LESSONS—DOES HE OR SHE NEED TO BE FIT FOR AN INSTRUMENT?***

No, if your child is intending to continue on that instrument, they do not need an instrument fitting. Please indicate on the sign up form that they have been taking private lessons and for how long.

***WHEN WILL LESSONS BEGIN?***

All students will have their first lesson in September of their fifth grade school year. It is important that your child has an instrument by their first lesson.



# Butler Area School District

## Instrumental Music Department

Mr. Eckert, Instrumental Music Teacher [matthew\\_eckert@butler.k12.pa.us](mailto:matthew_eckert@butler.k12.pa.us) (724) 214-3151 ext. 5733  
 Mrs. Groves, Instrumental Music Teacher [katherine\\_groves@butler.k12.pa.us](mailto:katherine_groves@butler.k12.pa.us) ext. 5706  
 Mrs. Karenbauer, Instrumental Music Teacher [jana\\_karenbauer@butler.k12.pa.us](mailto:jana_karenbauer@butler.k12.pa.us) ext. 5730

### SIGN-UP FORM FOR THE BUTLER MIDDLE SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

Please turn in this form to your child's teacher by **May 7, 2020**

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_ Room \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's email address \_\_\_\_\_















I will be attending my child's fitting (circle one): YES / NO

Parent/Guardian's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*If applicable: My child has been taking private lessons and already plays an instrument. Name of instrument \_\_\_\_\_*

*How long have they been taking lessons? \_\_\_\_\_*

Please rank your top two (2) choices of instruments in the order you wish to play them.  
 Put a number 1 on the line beside your first choice and a number 2 on the line beside your second choice.  
 Please note that the boxes with a ★ below are the instruments provided by the school.

BAND INSTRUMENTS		STRING INSTRUMENTS
____ Flute 	____ Trumpet 	____ Violin 
____ Oboe ★ 	____ French Horn ★ 	____ Viola ★ 
____ Clarinet 	____ Trombone 	____ Cello ★ 
____ Bass Clarinet ★ 	____ Baritone Horn ★ 	____ Bass 
____ Alto Saxophone 	____ Percussion 	
____ Tenor Saxophone ★ 