

5TH GRADE MUSIC CLASS SELECTION

Be a part of the band, orchestra, or chorus at Moon Area Middle School!

Dear Fourth Grade Parents/Guardians:

As you may be aware, the scheduling process has begun for the 2023-2024 school year, and music education at the middle school is in full swing! **Moon Area Middle School requires all students in grades 5-8 to be involved in a music performance ensemble (band, orchestra, or chorus) throughout their middle school careers.** Concerts, rehearsals, and lessons in the classroom are an integral part of the growth of young students and create a well-rounded program of studies at the middle school level.

Your child had the opportunity in elementary general music class to experience singing in a group setting and may choose to participate in **chorus** at the middle school. Chorus class meets every other day just like band and orchestra classes. Chorus members participate in a winter and spring concert each year to display the musical selections they have been working on in class. If your child loves to sing, chorus may be the right choice for them!

As an incoming fifth grade student, your child will finally have the new opportunity to play an instrument in the **band or orchestra!** In the coming weeks all 4th grade students will take part in Music Demonstration Day, where our middle school music faculty will introduce your child to a variety of instruments that will be available for them to play next year. During this time your child will complete a short survey on their school-issued device to help us match them to an instrument.

This survey is essentially a music game our faculty will lead during Music Demonstration Day. We will take them through a short series of listening challenges, ask 2 questions about physical features (teeth and lips) and have your child rank their top 3 choices of instrument to play. The answers to this survey will help our music faculty recommend an instrument that your child will naturally have the most success with. Students who wish to choose chorus as their music class will still participate in this activity just in case they change their mind during the decision-making process. **Final choices for Music Class Selection will occur in May via Microsoft Forms.** A link will be sent to parents via the email address listed in Skyward.

Prior to Music Demonstration Day your child will have spent time listening to all the different band and orchestra instruments in their music class. Talk to your child and see what their thoughts are. Which instruments do they like the sound of? Which instruments seem most interesting to them? You can view these videos with your child at home or watch interviews with real band/orchestra students at the following informational website: <http://bit.ly/3Z8l9tH> OR SCAN QR CODE:

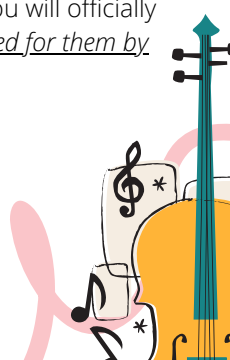


What to expect after Music Demonstration Day:

- 1. All parents receive an email with an Instrument Match Recommendation**
 - Our instrumental music faculty will take into account your child's physical features, preferences, and other answers from the matching tool survey to make an instrument recommendation.
- 2. Attend New Instrumental Parent Meeting (Required for Band/Orchestra)**
 - Mark your calendars: *May 2, 2023 at 7pm (Virtual)* A link will be distributed to parent email addresses listed on Skyward.
 - Any interested student must have a parent/guardian attend (virtually) or make arrangements to obtain the information.
- 3. Attend Instrument Try-Out event at selected Elementary Schools (Optional)**
 - While there will be no in-school physical instrument try-outs this year, if you would like your child to physically try out the recommended instrument, details to sign up for an appointment will be included in the initial parent email.
- 4. Fill Out Music Class Selection Form (Required for ALL Students)**
 - Once all other events have concluded, a Microsoft Form link will be shared via email for parents to complete. You will officially select your child's music class (and instrument, if appropriate). Every 4th grade student must have a form completed for them by May 12, 2023.



Your child is not required to enroll in band or orchestra even after trying out an instrument. However, 5th grade is the only year that beginning instrument instruction is offered at Moon Area. If your child does not enroll in a band or orchestra class by the deadline, they will be enrolled in chorus for grades 5-8. Students are welcome to choose chorus as their music class, and it will be an option on the Music Class Selection Form.





Music students out-perform non-music students on achievement tests in reading and math. Skills such as reading, anticipating, memory, listening, forecasting, recall, and concentration are developed in musical performance, and these skills are valuable to students in math, reading, and science.

Source: B. Friedman, "An Evaluation of the Achievement in Reading and Arithmetic of Pupils in Elementary School Instrumental Music Classes," Dissertation Abstracts International.



BAND & ORCHESTRA INFORMATION

Band and orchestra students at Moon Area Middle School get to play their instrument every other day, and the class is built into their schedule! Once enrolled, students will be placed into a class with peers that play the same instrument. While the Moon Area elementary schools run on a 5 day schedule, the middle school runs on an A Day/B Day schedule. Unlike your child's weekly "specials" classes in elementary school, their band, orchestra, or chorus class will meet every other day. Each week your child will have a full class of music instruction either 2 or 3 times. Receiving this amount of instruction in the first year of playing an instrument will foster amazing growth for your child! Your child can look forward to performing in concerts each year to display what they are learning in these classes.

Students who do not enroll in a band/orchestra instrument class in fifth grade will automatically be enrolled in chorus class for grades 5-8. **Once students are enrolled in their music class it is expected that they remain in the class for the entire 2023-2024 school year.**

COST

Required materials vary by instrument. Most students will be required to rent an instrument. Details will be sent to parents via email and discussed at the New Instrumental Parent Meeting on May 2 (Virtual). If you feel cost may be prohibitive for your family due to financial hardship, please send us an email ASAP! We do not want finances to be a barrier to your child joining band or orchestra and will likely be able to help!



INSTRUMENTS OFFERED

Band Instruments: flute, clarinet, saxophone, french horn, trumpet, trombone, baritone, percussion*

Orchestra Instruments: violin, viola, cello, bass

**Percussion encompasses many different instruments, a few of which include glockenspiel, snare drum, and bass drum. Percussion students will learn all of these instruments and more. Due to scheduling constraints there is a cap on enrollment in percussion class. Every percussion student will be required to purchase or rent a bell/percussion kit and transport from home to school daily.*

SIGN UP



Parents will receive an email from Moon Area Instrumental Music faculty with an instrument recommendation for their child based on the results of the matching tool surveys taken on Music Demonstration Day. Rest assured that we have your child's best interests in mind when giving our instrument recommendation. The link to a Microsoft Form for Music Class Selection will be included in this email along with detailed instructions and next steps. While there will be no in-school physical instrument try-outs this year, there will be an optional Instrument Try-Out Event at selected elementary schools for any student who wishes to physically try out the recommended instrument. Parents and students must sign up for an appointment if they wish to attend this event. Details will be distributed via email. Please make sure your email address/contact information on file with your child's school is accurate on Skyward.

We look forward to meeting you and answering your questions at the (virtual) **New Instrumental Parent Meeting on May 2 at 7:00pm.** Thank you for your continued support of music at Moon Area! Our doors are always open as we partner together to provide a nurturing and educational environment for your child.

CONTACT & RESOURCES



- For questions, please email us at instrumentstartup@moonarea.net
- To learn more about the instruments visit <http://bit.ly/3Z8I9tH> OR SCAN CODE:

