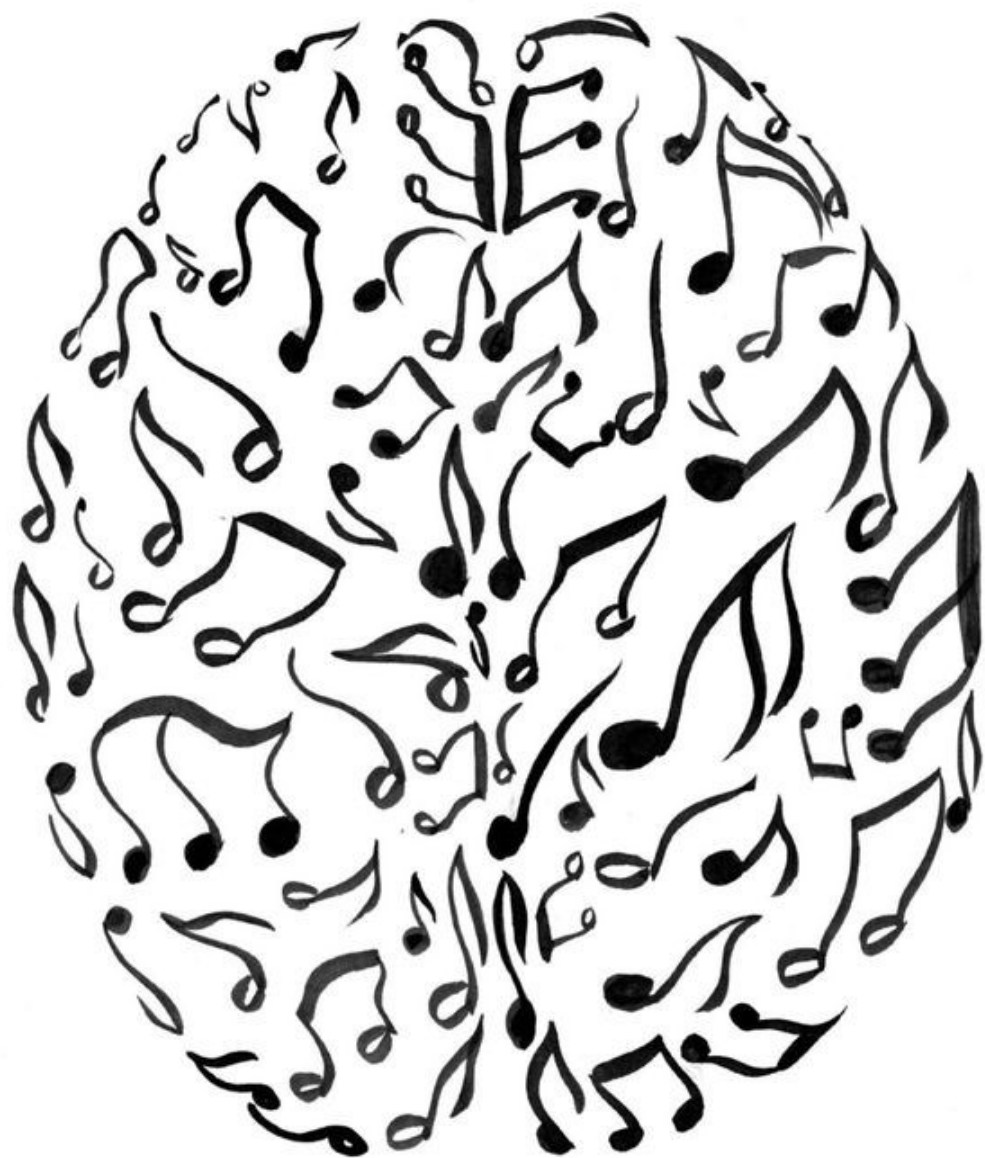


# *Your Musical Options At* Madison Middle School



Madison Middle School has a long history of successful music programs. Join us next year in Band, Orchestra or Chorus. We look forward to sharing the joys and benefits of music making with you!

# Band & Orchestra

*Choose to Learn:*

## *Woodwinds (Band)*

*Flute*  
*Oboe*  
*Bassoon*  
*Clarinet*  
*Saxophone*

## *Brass (Band)*

*Trumpet*  
*Horn*  
*Trombone*  
*Baritone*  
*Tuba*

## *Strings (Orchestra)*

*Violin*  
*Viola*  
*Cello*  
*String Bass*

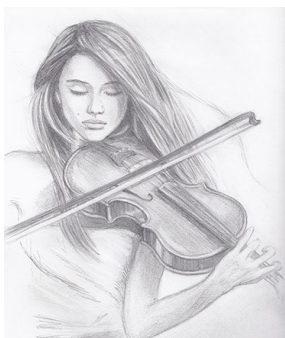
## *Percussion (Band)*



## *Beginning Band & Beginning Orchestra*

Available to students in grades 6-8. Traditionally is a year-long class that meets every day. This class is specifically for students that have NEVER played a band or orchestra instrument before. In orchestra, students choose the violin, viola, cello or bass. In band, students choose a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument. All students learn the fundamentals of music including how to read music & music vocabulary, music history, the different types of music and how to make a beautiful sound while playing simple to intermediate melodies on their instrument. They participate in quarterly concerts and a District VII Festival held each March.

## *Advanced Orchestra & Concert Band*



For students that already know how to play one of the listed instruments. These students should have been taking private lessons for at least a year &/or been in a structured ensemble program at their elementary school, UNM Prep school or the ABQ Junior Strings program. These are also traditionally year-long classes that meets every day. All students continue to learn more fundamentals of music including advanced music reading & music vocabulary, music history, the different types of music and playing their instrument with more advanced techniques. These classes also participate in workshops, quarterly performances and District Festivals.



# Chorus

Chorus is a class that requires no previous music experience for 6th, 7th & 8th grade students. Students learn about the basics of good singing & breath management, as well as how to navigate a choral score. All students learn the fundamentals of music including how to read music & music vocabulary, music history and the different types of music. Students give quarterly concerts & participate in the District VII Choral Festival in the spring. Because Chorus is a performance based class, all performances are mandatory and count as a large portion of the student's grade. Fundraising opportunities will be offered to help pay for choir expenses such as transportation to and from festivals & sheet music.



## Instrument Rental & Class Fees



Madison Middle School has many band & orchestra instruments available to rent. There is a small yearly fee for the rental. Both classes have a course fee that covers supplies, and for beginners includes a T-shirt and music book.

***No student is ever turned away from music programs for financial reasons.*** If a family has difficulty paying the course or rental fee, they can take advantage of fundraising opportunities and scholarships offered by the program.



## Questions?

Please contact Madison's music teachers with any questions you may have regarding your child's musical experience.

**Band Questions:** Ms. Camacho, email address: [camacho\\_c@aps.edu](mailto:camacho_c@aps.edu)

**Orchestra Questions:** Ms. Awes, email address: [emily.awes@aps.edu](mailto:emily.awes@aps.edu)

**Choir Questions:** Mrs. Moore, email address: [melinda.moore@aps.edu](mailto:melinda.moore@aps.edu)



Learning to play a musical instrument has so many benefits – whether it's building your confidence, enhancing your memory or widening your social circle. Here are the ten reasons you should consider taking up an instrument this year. Remember, your voice is an instrument so this includes singing in chorus!

### *1. Playing an instrument makes you smarter*

Einstein once said: "Life without playing music is inconceivable to me. I live my daydreams in music. I see my life in terms of music... I get most joy in life out of music". And as it turns out, Einstein was onto something: many studies show a correlation between musical training and academic success, in both children and adults. Learning to play an instrument stimulates the brain, improving functions like memory and abstract reasoning skills, which are essential for maths and science.

### *2. Your social life will improve*

Playing an instrument isn't only good for your brain, it's also great for expanding your social circle (sorry, pianists and organists). Joining a musical group at any age encourages you to develop relationships with new kinds of people. It also builds skills in leadership and team-building, as well as showing you the rewards of working with others.

### *3. Playing an instrument relieves stress*

Music keeps you calm. It has a unique effect on our emotions, and has even been proven to lower heart rate and blood pressure. Psychologist Jane Collingwood believes that slow classical music is often the most beneficial. "Listening to music can have a tremendously relaxing effect on our minds and bodies, especially slow, quiet classical music. This type of music can have a beneficial effect on our physiological functions, slowing the pulse and heart rate, lowering blood pressure, and decreasing the levels of stress hormones."

### *4. Playing an instrument gives you a sense of achievement*

Messed up your double-stopping in rehearsal, then totally nailed it at the performance? Playing and succeeding at a musical instrument gives you a huge sense of pride and achievement, especially when you manage to perfect a passage you've been struggling with for weeks.

### *5. It builds your confidence*

Playing an instrument helps you get comfortable with self-expression. As children begin to master their instrument, they will probably end up playing to a few audiences, starting with their music teacher or parents, and branching out to groups of other pupils and concert audiences. Playing in public can help children feel confident in presenting their work in a non-academic context.

### *6. Practicing a musical instrument improves patience*

OK, Franz Liszt wrote some insanely difficult music. But it's an important lesson to learn that the more effort you put into something, the better the result will be. Dawson's Music advises to "give it a year" before you see big improvements in ability and confidence. "[Then,] you'll look back and be glad of those hard first few months. Indeed, those first few months will forever be a badge of honor, saying you stuck it out and earned your stripes. There are no shortcuts to learning an instrument."

### *7. It helps improve your memory*

Researchers have found that learning to play a musical instrument can enhance verbal memory, spatial reasoning and literacy skills. Playing an instrument makes you use both sides of your brain, which strengthens memory power.

### *8. It increases discipline and time management skills*

Unless you're an out-of-this-world child prodigy, learning to play an instrument isn't a skill you can master overnight. Learning music takes time and effort, and helps children understand that if they want to be good at something, they'll need to put in the hours and organize their time effectively.

### *9. Playing music makes you more creative*

Practicing and perfecting a piece of music does wonders for the creative side of your brain. No matter how much a composer annotates their composition, they cannot fully express how a piece of music should be played. So it is up to the player to put their own stamp on a piece, to inject some of their personality into the music. There's a reason classical artists win awards for their performances.

### *10. Playing music is fun!*

We can harp on about all the scientifically accurate benefits to learning a musical instrument – but what matters most is that it's enjoyable for the player. While other hobbies like watching TV or flicking through social media are passive, playing music actively engages and stimulates the brain, making you feel happy and occupied.