



Let us be the first to welcome you to middle school! Billings Public Schools has so much to offer in the world of music, and as an incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grader, you now get to CHOOSE the path that you find to be of the most interest to you. Our music program offers multiple performing options in band, choir, and orchestra, as well as music exploration through our general music option.

Recently, you had the opportunity to visit your future high school to experience a live demonstration of all we have to offer. We hope you had all your questions answered and you left with an excitement of all that is in store for your music future!

For those interested in playing an instrument, attached you will find rental information sheets from the three vendors in Billings. All of these vendors invite you to come to their stores and try out the instruments that are of interest to you. All have financing plans available for renting and purchasing. Billings Public Schools also offers an instrument rental option. Our inventory is aging and limited, so please first visit one of our vendors to see what they have to offer. These experts will give you great advice about all of your options.

We look forward to making music with you in the fall!

Amy Schendel  
Fine Arts Education Coordinator

406-281-5048  
[schendelac@billingssschools.org](mailto:schendelac@billingssschools.org)



## I want to play in the **BAND!**

Great choice! There are so many options! A lot of factors go in to deciding which instrument to play. The most important...what do you LOVE? Come to the first day of class with a few ideas in mind, and our directors will help you make the best decision to stay true to who you are.

\*\*If you are interested in PERCUSSION...please be aware that you must audition before school even starts! We have a limited number of openings for percussion players. Auditions will take place the week before school starts and will cover information learned in your elementary general music class, such as note naming, note identification, rhythms, and steady beat. Information will come via email to enrolled students, and will also be available at middle school "Meet and Greet" events. Percussion students must pay a usage fee of \$50 each year they are enrolled in band.

## I love the **ORCHESTRA!**

And so do we! The rich sound of strings is music to our ears! And did you know that every instrument comes in a variety of sizes so they can fit to you? Do you prefer the higher tones? Or do you like the mellow sound of the lower strings? Either way, your director will help you to pick just the right instrument, and the right size, during those first few days of class.

And we can't wait for you to sing with us! If you ask our District's coordinator, you will hear her say EVERYONE can sing! Whether you are just beginning to explore your choral voice, or you have already

## I can't wait for **CHOIR!**

been part of a choir, you will have so much fun developing your confidence and singing skills as you experience many different styles of music. Your choir director will help you find the right part to fit with your changing voice. Come experience the power of voices together in harmony!

And we can't wait for you to sing with us! If you ask our District's coordinator, you will hear her say EVERYONE can sing! Whether you are just beginning to explore your choral voice, or you have already

## I prefer to stay in **GENERAL MUSIC.**

What a great option! You will get to experience music in a variety of settings, with topics that include music history, music theory, music technology, as well as voice and instrument exploration. General music is a great way to discover what you enjoy about music. You may even find yourself wanting to join one of our performing groups for next year!

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q: Should I rent or buy equipment before the first day of school?**

A: Feel free to visit one of our vendors over the summer to discuss options. Instruments will need to be rented/purchased by the end of the first week of school.

### **Q: My student wants to play an instrument, but we can't afford one. Do you have options for us?**

A: If your student wants to play an instrument, we want to make that possible! We will work with you on options for rental or scholarship.

### **Q: Can my student choose not to take a music class?**

A: No. Music is a required class for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. With our many options, we are sure your student will find something they will enjoy!

### **Q: We already have a pre-owned instrument. Can my student use it?**

A: We want your student to be excited about their instrument. That is the start to being successful in music! If your student is interested in playing an instrument you already own, please take it to a qualified instrument repair shop so they can make sure the instrument is in playing condition. If your student is not interested in playing that particular instrument, please help them find one that they will enjoy.

### **Q: Who can I contact with further questions?**

A: Please contact our Fine Arts Coordinator:  
Amy Schendel  
406-281-5048  
[schendelac@billingschools.org](mailto:schendelac@billingschools.org)