



2023 Crabapple Middle School Music Department *Band, Orchestra, Chorus*

Dear 6th Grade Students and Parents,

We are so excited that you will be a Crabapple Middle School student this Fall! There are wonderful opportunities available through the Crabapple Music Department- **Band, Orchestra and Chorus**. There is NO experience required to sign up for a music class, and we will teach students everything they need to know to be successful in their chosen area. It won't be long before students are sharing their musical skills with the school community!

Band, Orchestra and Chorus classes are the first of potentially seven years' worth of music education, and a lifetime of enjoyment. We will have concerts, field trips, and other fun events just for music students. Students in band or orchestra may be asked to supply their own instruments as well as other instrument related supplies, but we also have school-owned instruments available for those with need. Some larger instruments (cello/bass/tuba/etc.) will be available to rent from the school. More information about specific supplies, where to rent or purchase instruments, and uniforms will be distributed and explained at the start of the respective classes.

The *beginning* of the sixth grade is the only time students can begin instrumental instruction. Music classes, PE/health, and connections classes are taught for sixth graders during 2nd and 8th periods. The music class chosen fills one of these periods in the schedule for the year. The other class will rotate each 9 weeks, through the other connections or PE classes.

Below are brief descriptions of each area in the music department.

The **Band** includes the woodwind, brass, and percussion families of instruments. Examples of woodwinds are the bassoon, clarinet, flute, oboe, and saxophone. Students interested in brass instruments might select the baritone, French horn, trumpet, trombone or tuba. Percussion instruments include melodic pitched instruments (e.g. bells and marimba) in addition to the snare and bass drums, or drum set. Mr. Melton, the band director, will help you identify your best choice of instrument during mouth piece testing that will be held in April by appointment at CMS. Please contact Mr. Melton for more information.

The **Orchestra** is comprised of the stringed instrument family. These include the violin - the smallest and highest pitched instrument in the string family; the viola - a mellow midrange instrument slightly larger than the violin; the cello - a rich sounding lower register instrument; and the string bass - the largest and deepest in the string family. Ms. Kim, the orchestra director, will introduce all four instruments to students and assist them in choosing one on the first week of school. All stringed instruments come in multiple sizes to fit any sized student. Not sure which one to choose? Come to String Instrument's Exhibit on May 6th, Saturday from 9am-2pm at CMS. Please contact Ms. Kim for more information.

The **Chorus** gives students a chance to develop their voice in a group setting while building musical skills. There are also many opportunities for solos and other activities such as all-state chorus and honor choruses. Choral students perform a variety of musical styles including traditional choral, jazz, classical, musical theatre and pop.

Mr. Melton- Band
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Ms. Kim, Orchestra
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Ms. Thomas Chorus
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