



HOLMEN MIDDLE SCHOOL

"Educate and empower all students to achieve success today and in the future."

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After completing this form, turn it in at the parent meeting or to your 5th grade teacher.

GRADE 6 - MUSIC CLASS CHOICE FORM

All incoming 6th graders must complete this form.

It is **important** to read the class descriptions on the back.

1. All 6th graders are required to take a music class for at least one semester. General Music is a non-performance class that meets for one semester. Band, Choir and Orchestra are performance classes that last all year.
2. Permission to drop Band, Choir and Orchestra may be obtained **only at the end of the semester** and must be approved by the instructor, parent and an administrator.
3. Students choosing Band or Orchestra must purchase or rent an instrument and necessary materials. A limited number of school instruments are available at no charge for qualifying families in need.
4. Due to DPI requirements and scheduling constraints, Choir and Orchestra are the only two music classes that can be taken together in 6th grade.
5. Sixth grade music class selections will **NOT** prohibit students from taking different or additional music classes in 7th and/or 8th grade.

Check the box next to the Music Class you prefer. **(Choose only one)**

Band Choir Orchestra Choir and Orchestra General Music

Sign below. A parent must sign this form.

(Student Name - PRINT)

(Student Signature)

(Elementary School)

(Name of 5th Grade Teacher)

(Parent Signature)

(Date)



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Band - This is a year-long elective class that meets every other day for the entire school year.

This course will begin instrumental music instruction in the summer before 6th grade with a four-week program that starts the last week of July and continues through the first three weeks of August. When school resumes in September, students continue individual/small group lessons once every week for twenty minutes in addition to the full rehearsals. First year instruction centers on developing tonal concept, counting fundamental rhythmic patterns, and correct fingerings and hand position on their chosen instrument. Music performed is of a grade 1 level and occasionally 1-1/2. The 6th grade band will give two evening performances (attendance required) during the school year.

Choir - This is a year-long elective class that meets every other day for the entire school year.

Sixth grade singers will learn appropriate posture and breathing techniques while singing in a variety of musical styles, including "pops" and "show choir". We will work to develop our voices through fun warm-ups and exercises. Sixth grade choir members will learn the fundamentals of healthy singing and work as a choral ensemble in preparation for 7th and 8th grade choir. Activities include performing at the HMS Veteran's Day Assembly in November, the December Holiday Concert, and our Spring Concert in May. Parents are welcome to attend all of these events.

Orchestra - This is a year-long elective class that meets every other day for the entire school year.

Students begin orchestra instruction in 6th grade. Orchestra class begins and will meet every other day during Encore time. In addition, students will have individual/small group lessons once each week for twenty minutes each. First year instruction centers on developing tonal concept, counting fundamental rhythmic patterns and proper playing technique. The students will be involved in three evening concert programs per year. Attendance and performance at these concerts is a required part of the course. Various other performances and activities may happen throughout the year.

General Music - This class is a required for 6th graders who do not take a performance music class. It meets every other day for one semester.

Sixth grade music reinforces the basic elements of music taught in the elementary school, and applies these elements in a hands-on, creative process, so that students can express their individuality. Students will focus on the elements of music (expression, rhythm, form, melody, timbre, texture and harmony), and will compose simple rhythms and melodies. They will explore a variety of musical styles while learning about the history of music. Students will take a retrospective look at music from the Baroque period to styles of the 20th Century such as Jazz and Folk music. This class will also feature the relationship between musical and dance art forms as students participate in classic American folk dances.