SEPTEMBER 2026 VOLUME NO. 10

ENCORE!

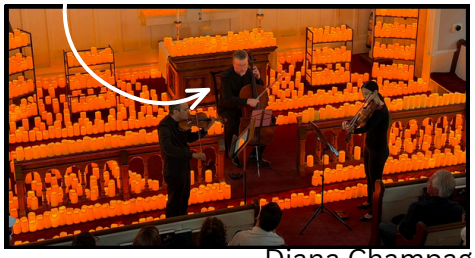
THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MADISON MUSIC DEPARMENT

MADISON MAKES MUSIC!

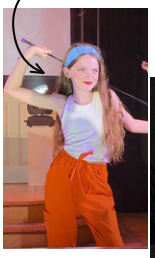
The music doesn't end when the last bell rings in June!

Students and staff at Madison share their talents in many venues over the summer months. Take a look at the many music makers below!

Mr Elkins



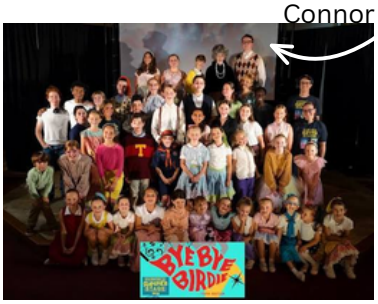
Juliette Simms





Tyler Picart

Connor Decker





Oliver Bennett



Timo Santiago- Byrne

Brooklyn Rondon

Diana Champagne



MADISON MAKES MUSIC ALL SUMMER LONG!

Ms. Saunders



Davis Burke



MUSIC AT MADISON

The 7th and 8th Grade Band
The 6th Grade Band
The Jazz Band
The 6th Grade Chorus
The 7th & 8th Grade Chorus
The Madison Singers
The Madison Orchestra
The String Ensemble
Broadway Babies Drama

IMPORTANT DATES

- Trumbull Classic (8th Grade Band performing)- Saturday, Sept. 26th
- Madison's Got Talent - Thursday, October 8th
- Broadway Babies Info Meeting and show announcement - October 15th
- Broadway Babies auditions videos due 10/23 and call-backs TBA
- Broadway Babies first rehearsal/parent meeting - 11/6
- Tree Lighting Rehearsal - November 19, 2:30-4pm/auditorium
- The String Fling - Tuesday November 24 at 6:30p.m.
- Trumbull Tree Lighting - Friday, December 4
- 7th & 8th Grade Chorus & Madison Singers Winter Concert - Tues. Dec. 8, 7pm
- 7th & 8th Grade Band and Jazz Band Winter Concert- Thursday, Dec. 10, 7pm
- Western Regionals Auditions - Sat. Dec. 12 Location TBA
- Grade 6 Band and Orchestra - Tuesday, Dec. 15, 7pm
- Western Regional Music Festival - March 12th and 13th
- Broadway Babies Show - March 18th and 19th
- 6th Grade Chorus and Madison Singers - Tuesday, May 4 at 6:00pm
- Orchestra - Tuesday May 4 at 7:30pm
- 7th & 8th Grade Band and Jazz Band Spring Concert - Thursday, May 6 at 7pm
- Grade 6 Band and Jazz Band - Tuesday, May 11 at 7pm
- 7th & 8th Grade Chorus & Madison Singers Spring Concert - Thursday, May 13 at 7pm
- Memorial Day Parade (7th/8th Grade Band) - Monday, May 31
- Music Festival Trip/ 7th&8th Grade Band and Orchestra - Friday, June 4
- Stepping Forth -TBA

SEPTEMBER 2026 VOLUME NO. 10

Harmony HIGHLIGHTS

CHORUS AT MADISON

AUDITIONS FOR MADISON SINGERS

who: any 7th and 8th grader
dates: September 7th, 8th, 9th
times: sign up for a 5 min slot
place: 125
bring: paragraph -why you want to be in Madison Singers.
You do not need to bring a song.

SIGN UP

*SIGN UP IN 125



SUMMER TYA JR PRODUCTION OF SEUSICAL THE MUSICAL!!





"THE ONLY THING BETTER THAN SINGING IS MORE SINGING."
— ELLA FITZGERALD

MEET YOUR CHORUS TEACHER!

Deana Saunders,
Chorus and Musical Director

Education
BS in Classical Voice and Music Education
MS in Music Education and Conducting

Years at Madison - 28

Favorite thing about teaching - Being a part of kids reaching their potential!

Hobbies - Photography, reading, watercolor painting, baking, hiking, and of course....singing.

Favortie song - Oooh that's a tough one! Rainbow Connection by Kermit the Frog is a great one!

CHORUS STUDENT REMINDERS:

- DID YOU TURN IN YOUR CONTRACT??
- DID YOU ADD THE CONCERT DATES TO
- YOUR FAMILY CALENDAR?
- DID YOU COMPLETE ASSIGNMENT #1?
- DID YOU BRING IN TISSUES FOR ROOM 125?
- ARE YOU TAKING GOOD CARE OF YOUR VOICE?

CHORUS Students of the Month

6 7 8 COMING SOON!

MADISON CHORUS HAS A NEW CONCERT PIANIST! ~JEEHYUN KIM~



Meet Jeehyun Kim
Collaborative pianist and music director, **Jeehyun Kim** is a highly active and versatile musician based in Connecticut, active across classical, choral, and musical theater stages.

She serves as an accompanist for various ensembles and institutions, including Western Connecticut State University—where she accompanies the Chamber Choir and woodwind and string studios—, the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Chorus, the Quinnipiac University Singers, the Oxford Middle School Choir and now MADISON! She is also the music director for the Greenwich Korean Church.

Originally from South Korea, Ms. Kim won numerous national competitions in Korea, including the prestigious Concerto Competition of the Seoul National Symphony Orchestra, before moving to the United States, where she earned her Master of Music in Collaborative Piano from the Hartt School of Music.

Beyond the classical stage, Ms. Kim is deeply involved in theater arts, working as a music director and keyboardist for numerous musical productions, including Next to Normal, Little Shop of Horrors, and Legally Blonde, among others.

She resides in Shelton, with her husband, son, and their pet turtle.

WELCOME MS. KIM!

BROADWAY BABIES

MADISON MIDDLE SCHOOL DRAMA

DO YOU SING?

DO YOU ACT?

INFORMATIONAL MEETING FOR STUDENTS

OCTOBER 15TH

THURSDAY 2:30-3:20

PLACE - TBA

IF YOU CAN'T MAKE THE MEETING, CHECK YOUR GRADE LEVEL GOOGLE CLASSROOM FOR INFORMATION THE NEXT DAY.

DO YOU DANCE?

ARE YOU CREATIVE?

SHOW ANNOUNCEMENT DAY!

2027 SHOW DATES
MARCH 18 & 19



This meeting is for any student interested in becoming part of our cast or crew this year. At the meeting, you will learn about the show, audition process, potential crew jobs and commitment.



THE STRINGS BEAT

ORCHESTRA AT MADISON



The year is off to a musical start in room 123!
- a note from Mr. Elkins

Welcome back—or, as I always like to tell my students at the beginning of the school year, **"Welcome Bach!"** 🎶 I have to try to get at least one eye roll and one laugh out of them!

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer! I know many of our students stayed musically active over the break, whether participating in the **Trumbull Summer Music Camp, TYA musicals,** or other musical events and activities. I stayed busy musically as well, performing in several candlelight concerts featuring music by **Queen, Fleetwood Mac, The Beatles, and ABBA.** It's always a great reminder that **string instruments aren't just for classical music!**

🎻 Welcome, 6th Grade!

A special welcome to all of our new 6th grade orchestra students and their families! Our 6th graders are off to a great start. Moving from elementary school to middle school is a big adjustment, and learning how to navigate a new school, new routines, and a new orchestra program takes some time. I am very pleased with how they have started the year!



EVENTS

STRING FLING

NOVEMBER 24TH 2026



Concert Dates

Please be sure to mark our concert dates on your calendars! Concerts are mandatory orchestra events and are an important part of the students' musical experience. More information about concerts, including times and details, will be provided as we get closer to each event. I am looking forward to another great year of making music together. I can't wait to see everyone at our concerts!

Here's to a fantastic year of music!

Mr. Elkins 🎻

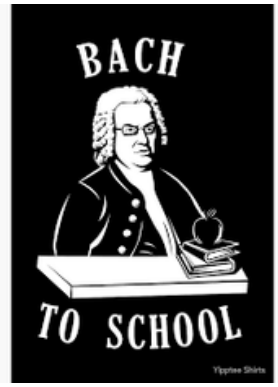
THE STRINGS BEAT

ORCHESTRA AT MADISON



Instruments should go home regularly.

Students have a cubby in the string room where they can safely leave their instruments during the school day. However, instruments should not live in the school all week! Students should be taking their instruments home regularly for practice, especially over weekends and school holidays. If I notice that a student is consistently leaving their instrument at school, I will send home a reminder, as regular home practice is an important part of their orchestra grade and progress.



Please take care of instrument needs as soon as possible.

I have already spoken with several students who need a larger-sized instrument or another item to help them play successfully, such as a shoulder rest/pad, replacement strings, or other supplies. If your student has mentioned one of these needs, please try to take care of it as soon as possible so they can begin the year with everything they need to be successful.



STRINGS Students of the Month COMING SOON!

There will be a Strings Student of the Month for each grade level.
This recognition is not simply about who plays the best!
Students will be considered based on a variety of qualities, including:

- **Effort and improvement**
- **Positive attitude**
- **Participation in class**
- **Preparedness**
- **Cooperation and respect for others**
- **Consistent practice and responsibility**
- **Being a positive member of the orchestra**

GOAL - to recognize students who demonstrate the qualities that make a great musician and a great member of our orchestra community!

SEPTEMBER 2026

VOLUME NO. 10

BAND TOGETHER

BAND AT MADISON

What's Happening in BAND...

8th Grade Band

Madison's 8th Grade Band is working on performing the National Anthem from memory to kick off the upcoming Trumbull Classic marching band competition, in collaboration with the 8th grade students from Hillcrest. The percussion students practice as a drum line with field equipment and are learning to play a cadence for marching to the field. Students will also be preparing to play a variety of test examples from the beginning of their "green book", with more advanced rhythms in 6/8 and dotted eighth/sixteenth note rhythms. Wind students begin to play a variety of minor scales (natural minor, harmonic minor, and melodic minor) and a few folk songs from various cultures, while percussionists will work on music with rudiments such as 7-stroke rolls, and also more advanced mallet examples.

7th Grade Band students will be working on improving their ability to play a number of scales, and are playing a variety of folk songs from the beginning of their "blue book". They are also working on playing music with new key signatures, recognizing intervals by ear, and learning new rhythm patterns which involve syncopation. Test examples include a wide variety of pieces including multicultural folk songs, American Spirituals, and Mozart's Turkish Rondo. It is also a great idea to be working on small group ensemble pieces, and amusing pop "play-alongs" from fun sites like Flutorials (flute), Clarified (clarinet), Brassified (trumpet), and Saxplained (saxes).

6th Grade Band

Experienced players from 6th Grade Band have been reviewing concepts at the beginning of their "red book" and will eventually be preparing to play test examples. Some of the experienced players may begin working on learning a new/related instrument. Students will also be working on passing their first scale at MMS (Concert B-flat). Test examples will include a variety of music such as Frere Jacques, Mexican Hat Dance, Eerie Canal, and Bingo...a review for some of the students and new material for others. Students are working on including more flats and sharps, higher and lower notes, basic rhythm counting skills, and improving their ability to play together as a group. They also go over a variety of time periods in music, also playing some easy themes by composers such as Brahms, Mozart, and Rossini.

6th Grade Beginning Band students are starting on a brand-new band instrument this year, no experience needed! At this point, most students have gotten their instrument and are starting to learn how to assemble it, hold the instrument correctly, make a sound correctly, and eventually read and play their first 5 notes. We will work on understanding how to read simple rhythm patterns, they will eventually play beginning band milestones such as Hot Cross Buns, Merrily We Roll Along, and Down By The Station.As you can guess, practicing a few times each week, at least 20 minutes at a time, is essential to keeping up with the class.

BAND Students of the Month

6 7 8

COMING SOON!

Summer Band Camps 2026

Some of the 8th Grade band students started learning to march and perform in the **THSGEMB** show this summer!





Joy (flute) performing in **KEYS Summer Program** at the University of Bridgeport



Trumbull Summer Music Camp, including some MMS students in both **jazz band** (photo above) and **concert band** (below).



SEPTEMBER 2026

VOLUME NO. 10

BAND TOGETHER

BAND AT MADISON

FROM MR. THORNTON

Jazz Band auditions will be coming soon...students can sign up for a time on either of two days....Wed. Sept 9th or Thurs. Sept. 10th. I'm looking forward to hearing the returning players as well as new players interested in joining.

Auditioning for **Western Regionals** is a great way for more advanced players to work on more challenging material. Some of the most advanced 7th/8th grade band students are encouraged to represent our school...see Mr. Thornton for more information! Audition registration deadline is in early November.

Practicing is not overrated! Band students should be taking their instrument and music home a few times each week to practice! 8th grade students do not need to fill out practice sheets but they still should be practicing regularly. 6th and 7th grade students should be practicing it home, completing practice sheets to get credit for their practice time, and having parents sign it. 20-30 minutes at least 3-4 times a week is recommended to keep up with the lessons.

Lastly, any **parents** who might be willing to help as part of an informal "Band Parents" group are asked to email Mr. Thornton at rthornto@trumbullps.org. There are a lot of logistics over the course of the year that would be much easier with some parents helping! A few from each grade level would be very helpful.

Many thanks!
-Rob Thornton, Band Director



Jazz Band playing at Stepping Forth 2026



Mr. Thornton conducting 6th Grade Band and 7th & 8th Grade Band on stage



Madison's got Talent!

Kids & Adults Reaching out to Everyone, otherwise known as KARE is Madison's community service club. Their primary fund raising comes from Madison's Got Talent, the talent show, so its a good thing that Madison has so many talented kids!

Can you sing, dance, play an instrument, do comedy or perform a cheer routine?
If so, come try out for Madison's Got Talent, sponsored by the KARE club.
Please see all the details on the tryout form which can be found on the daily notice.
The talent show date is October 8th, and tryout days are September 23 and 24th.
See Mrs. Malgioglio or Mrs. Cerulli for details.







OCTOBER 8TH!