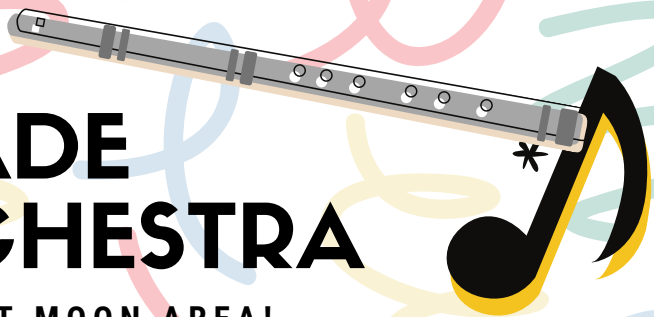


5TH GRADE BAND & ORCHESTRA



BE PART OF THE MUSIC AT MOON AREA!

Dear Fourth Grade Parents/Guardians:

As you may be aware, the scheduling process has begun for the 2021-2022 school year, and music education at the middle school is in full swing! Moon Area Middle School requires all students in grades 5-8 to be involved in a music performance ensemble (band, orchestra, or chorus) throughout their middle school careers. Concerts, rehearsals, and lessons in the classroom are an integral part of the growth of young students and create a well-rounded program of studies at the middle school level.

As an incoming fifth grade student, your child will finally have the opportunity to play an instrument! In the coming weeks your student will take part in Instrument Demonstration Day, where our instrumental music faculty will introduce your child to a variety of band and orchestra instruments. During this time your child will complete a short survey on their school-issued device to help us match them to an instrument.

This matching tool is essentially a music game our faculty will lead during Instrument Demonstration Day that also asks 3 questions about physical features (teeth, chin, lips), and asks your child to rank their top 3 choices of instrument to play. The answers to this matching tool survey will help our music faculty recommend an instrument that your child will naturally have the most success with.

Prior to Instrument Demonstration Day your child will have spent time listening to all the different band and orchestra instruments in their music class. Talk to your child and see what their thoughts are. Which instruments do they like the sound of? Which instruments seem most interesting to them? You can view these videos with your child at home or watch interviews with real band/orchestra students at our instrumental recruitment website: www.bit.ly/3k1Rmjh

What to expect after Instrument Demonstration Day:

1. An email with the results of the instrument matching process

- Our instrumental music faculty will take into account your child's physical features, preferences, and other answers from the matching tool survey to make an instrument recommendation.

2. New Instrumental Parent Meeting

- Mark your calendars: **May 4, 2021** at 7pm via Zoom - A link will be distributed via email and posted to Teams.
- Any interested student must have a parent/guardian attend virtually or make arrangements to obtain the information.

3. (Optional) Instrument Try-Out event at Moon Area High School

- Mark your calendars: **May 10, 2021** in the evening with specific time slots (appointment required)
- While there will be no in-school physical instrument try-outs this year, if you would like your child to physically try out the recommended instrument, details to sign up for an appointment will be included in the initial parent email.

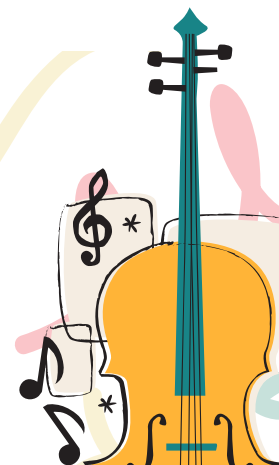
Your child is not required to enroll in band or orchestra at this point, but 5th grade is the only year that beginning instrument instruction is offered at Moon Area. If your child does not enroll in a band or orchestra class at that time, they will be enrolled in chorus for grades 5-8.



INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC & COVID-19

The Moon Area Music Department plans to continue following all current guidelines to keep students as safe as possible while playing instruments.

For more information on the studies that have been published on the topic of performing arts during the time of COVID-19 visit this website: www.nfhs.org/articles/unprecedented-international-coalition-led-by-performing-arts-organizations-to-commission-covid-19-study/





Music students out-perform non-music students on achievement tests in reading and math. Skills such as reading, anticipating, memory, listening, forecasting, recall, and concentration are developed in musical performance, and these skills are valuable to students in math, reading, and science.

Source: B. Friedman, "An Evaluation of the Achievement in Reading and Arithmetic of Pupils in Elementary School Instrumental Music Classes," Dissertation Abstracts International.



HOW DOES IT WORK?



Band and orchestra students at Moon Area Middle School get to play their instrument every other day, and the class is built into their schedule! Once enrolled, students will be placed into a class with peers that play the same instrument. While the Moon Area elementary schools run on a 5 day schedule, the middle school runs on an A Day/B Day schedule. Unlike your child's weekly "specials" classes in elementary school, their band, orchestra, or chorus class will meet every other day. Each week your child will have a full class of music instruction either 2 or 3 times. Receiving this amount of instruction in the first year of playing an instrument will foster amazing growth for your child! Your child can look forward to performing in concerts each year to display what they are learning in these classes.

Students who do not enroll in an instrumental music class in fifth grade will automatically be enrolled in chorus class for grades 5-8. **Once students are enrolled in their music class it is expected that they remain in the class for the entire 2021-2022 school year.**

COST

Required materials vary by instrument. Most students will be required to rent an instrument. Details will be sent to parents via email and discussed at the New Instrumental Parent Meeting on May 4 via Zoom. If you feel cost may be prohibitive for your family due to financial hardship, please send us an email. We do not want finances to be a barrier to your child joining band or orchestra and will likely be able to help!



WHICH INSTRUMENTS ARE OFFERED?

Band Instruments: flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone, percussion*

Orchestra Instruments: violin, viola, cello, bass

*Percussion encompasses many different instruments, a few of which include glockenspiel, snare drum, and bass drum. Percussion students will learn all of these instruments and more. Due to scheduling constraints there is a cap on enrollment in percussion class. Every percussion student will be required to purchase or rent a bell/percussion kit and transport from home to school daily.

HOW DO WE SIGN UP?



Parents will receive an email from the Moon Area Instrumental Music faculty with an instrument recommendation for their child based on the results of the matching tool surveys taken on Instrument Demonstration Day. Rest assured that we have your child's best interests in mind when giving our instrument recommendation. The link to a music class enrollment form will be included in this email along with detailed instructions and next steps. While there will be no in-school physical instrument try-outs this year, there will be an optional Instrument Try-Out event on May 10 at the Moon Area High School for any student who wishes to physically try out the recommended instrument. Parents and students must sign up for an appointment if they wish to attend this event. Details will be distributed via email. Please make sure your email address/contact information on file with your child's school is accurate on Skyward. We look forward to meeting you and answering your questions at the **New Instrumental Parent Meeting on May 4 at 7:00pm via Zoom.**

Thank you for your continued support of instrumental music at Moon Area! Our doors are always open as we partner together to provide a nurturing and educational environment for your child.

CONTACT & RESOURCES



Email: instrumentstartup@moonarea.net

Instrumental Recruitment Website: www.bit.ly/3k1Rmjh

General Information: Microsoft Teams>Music Class>Instrument Start Up Channel