

Hello Prospective Music Students and Parents:

Registration for the coming school year is upon us and as you speak to your child about their upcoming middle school experience, I would like to take the opportunity to tell you a little about the Oquirrh Hills Middle School Music program and how your child can get involved.

Oquirrh Hills Middle School is proud to offer Instrumental and Choral music instruction to your child. Educational research suggests the correlation between music study and improved academic achievement. Statistics show that the study of a musical instrument also helps with:

- Self Discipline
- Mathematics and logic
- Cooperation with others
- History
- Cross-curricular instruction
- Creating a satisfying involvement in the arts

Students have the option of enrolling in the following music courses as seventh graders:

**Beginning Band:** This class is for students who have never taken a music class before. If you are interested in playing one of the following instruments: flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, baritone, tuba and percussion (it is strongly recommended that percussion students have a year of piano experience before beginning their percussion study, as only 8-10 students will be allowed to take percussion for instrumentation and health reasons). Students who want to learn to play the saxophone need to play the clarinet for the first semester. Students who want to play the french horn will do the same on trumpet. Students who want to learn oboe, bassoon, or other should talk to Mr. Perkins. **Middle school is the last opportunity for students to learn to play an instrument! All other electives offered at this level can be taken at the high school at a beginning level EXCEPT instrumental music!** Now is a critical time for your student if they have ever thought about learning to play an instrument.

**Beginning Band (Woodwinds):** Instruction is offered for the following instruments in this class- flute, clarinet (saxophone may be offered at second semester for those clarinet students who want to learn this instrument), percussion (limit of 8-10 students).

**Beginning Band (Brass):** Instruction is offered for the following instruments in this class- trumpet (french horn at second semester), trombone, baritone, tuba.

**Concert Band:** This class is for students who have already played a band instrument in their elementary school years. Students looking to learn a second band instrument (called doubling) are encouraged to talk to Mr. Perkins. Common doublings are flute to oboe, clarinet to bass clarinet, saxophone to bassoon, trumpet to horn or baritone or tuba. No audition is required to sign up for this class.

**Jazz Band:** This is the only auditioned band class at OHMS. Auditions will take place the second week of school. This ensemble is currently taught during T.A. Students who play the following instruments are encouraged to audition: saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano, electric bass, electric guitar, and percussion. Guitar students **MUST** be able to read traditional notation and chord symbols (not just tab). **All students must be enrolled in a music performing class to be eligible for Jazz Band.**

**Beginning Orchestra:** This class is for students who have never taken a music class before and are interested in playing one of the following instruments: violin, viola, cello, doublebass. Guitar and electric bass are not taught in Beginning Orchestra.

**Concert Orchestra:** This class is for students who have already played a string instrument in their elementary school years. Students looking to learn a second string instrument (called doubling) are encouraged to talk to Mr. Perkins. No audition is required to sign up for this class.

**Men's and Women's and Concert Choirs:** This class is for students interested in singing in a large choir. Students with lots of experience or none at all are all welcome! Students are encouraged to sign

up for the full year, but a semester option is always available. Students who play piano, and want to accompany the choir are strongly encouraged to sign up for this class.

**What will my student do in a music class?** Your students will: Learn/review basic music reading skills, Practice note reading, notation and rhythm reading skills on a regular basis, Learn specific skills on chosen instrument for instrumental students, Play varied music alone and as a group Practice time management and goal setting skills by developing practice plans and goals Practice critical listening skills through listening to and reflecting on various types of music Work on constructive criticism skills by listening to and evaluating our group performances

**What does my child have to do outside of class?** Each student is responsible for his or her own practice time (instrumental students) and homework assignments. Instrumental students practice to complete homework assignments out of the assigned music book or sheet music depending on the class. Students will prepare for periodic playing or singing tests given in class. All performing classes will have at least one evening performance each quarter.

**Can I take a music class all three years at Oquirrh Hills?** Yes, in fact there are some classes you can test out of or take online to help make this easier. Ask your counselor about these options.

**Why should I take a music class?**

Did you know that studying music can make you smarter? A ten-year study indicates that students who study music achieve higher test scores, regardless of socioeconomic background. - Dr. James Catterall, UCLA.

College admissions officers continue to cite participation in music as an important factor in making admissions decisions. They claim that music participation demonstrates time management, creativity, expression, and open-mindedness. - Carl Hartman, "Arts May Improve Students' Grades," The Associated Press, October, 1999.

U.S. Department of Education data on more than 25,000 secondary school students found that students who report consistent high levels of involvement in instrumental music over the middle and high school years show "significantly higher levels of mathematics proficiency by grade 12." - U.S. Department of Education NELL88 Database

Students can take an entry level class in all the fine arts and performing arts at the high school level EXCEPT instrumental music. Middle school is the time to learn to play that instrument you've been thinking about!

If you would like to talk more, please email me at [james\\_perkins@jordandistrict.org](mailto:james_perkins@jordandistrict.org)

Thank you!

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