

## **Official enrollment information for 6<sup>th</sup> grade Band \*OR\* Orchestra**

\*To enroll your child in EITHER BAND or ORCHESTRA, please completely fill out **the enrollment form at the end of this document**, and return it to school as soon as possible or mail to Mason Intermediate School Band Dept., 6307 Mason Montgomery Road, Mason, OH 45040. This is an *optional* activity that takes place during the school day for 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Please read the following information and/or visit the Mason Instrumental Department website at: [www.masonbands.com](http://www.masonbands.com) or [www.masonorchestra.com](http://www.masonorchestra.com) Please notice there 3 pages to this letter.

**Elective choice** - Band **OR** Orchestra - Students have the option to begin playing an instrument in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. This opportunity would be in addition to their General Music class, not a substitution. Classes take place during intervention three days a week in which students will receive instruction on the instrument they choose to play.

**Expectations** - Time commitment outside of the school day consists of home practice and two evening concerts, one in winter and one in spring. Practicing at home is vital to success on a musical instrument to help reading skills and to reinforce the playing techniques taught in class. We recommend practicing at least 60 minutes per week.

**Equipment** - The school does not provide instruments, but highly recommends rental over outright purchase because of possible instrument changes. The band and orchestra directors will discuss rental recommendations at their parent informational meetings, or you may contact them directly with specific questions. Cello, bass, and baritone students will use school-owned equipment in class, but rent their own instrument for home practice. *All band and orchestra students will need to have an **INSTRUMENT AND METHOD BOOK** by the second week of school.*

**\*\*\*If your child chooses to participate, please make a selection between band and orchestra, do not choose both. Students should make a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> choice of instrument on the enrollment form. We will contact you if there is any problem with your child's 1<sup>st</sup> choice.**

### **6<sup>th</sup> GRADE BAND OPTIONS:**

**Woodwind instruments** - Clarinet, Flute, and Alto Saxophone\* (limited to the first 24 enrolled and/or those students who own a saxophone.)

**Brass instruments** - Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone, and Double French Horn\* (director audition recommended)

\***Percussion** WILL NO LONGER be offered as a beginning band instrument choice. Students who would like to play percussion starting in 7<sup>th</sup> grade need to play a woodwind or brass instrument in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

If you own a band instrument that is not listed on the enrollment form, please write it in by hand. A limited number of exploratory sessions are available for students who are having difficulty choosing an instrument. After-school appointments take place from 3-3:30 PM, and must be scheduled **directly** with a band director.

There is valuable information available about the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Beginning Band program at the following web address - <http://www.masonbands.com/MIS.htm>. Click on the "Choose Instrument" page for a downloadable document that gives recommendations for renting an instrument from reliable music companies.

\*\*\*Band directors: Ms. Christy Downer (459-2850 ext. 75240) [downerc@mason.k12.oh.us](mailto:downerc@mason.k12.oh.us)  
Mr. Chad Fourman (459-2850 ext. 75241) [fourmanc@mason.k12.oh.us](mailto:fourmanc@mason.k12.oh.us)

### **6<sup>th</sup> GRADE ORCHESTRA OPTIONS:**

Violin Viola Cello String Bass

A limited number of exploratory sessions are available for students who are having difficulty choosing an instrument. After-school appointments must be scheduled **directly** with Miss Finnerty.

\*\*\*Orchestra director: Miss Molly Finnerty (459-2850 ext. 71490) [finnertym@mason.k12.oh.us](mailto:finnertym@mason.k12.oh.us)

Please return the enrollment form to MI-56 as soon as possible to sign your child up for band or orchestra.  
(Information continues on the next page)

- ❖ **Did you know that your student will have to CHOOSE A MUSIC CLASS IN 7<sup>TH</sup> grade?** Band & orchestra can count as their music class, but we highly recommend having them start to learn their instrument as a 6<sup>th</sup> grader so they are prepared to play in middle school groups with experience and not as beginners.
- ❖ **Have a family owned instrument?** If it works properly, your child is welcome to use it. Please note our recommendations on the “Specifications” sheet (*check band website – Intermediate school / Choose instrument / Instrument Purchase/Rental Information*) for more details regarding each instrument. If you would like help evaluating an instrument to make sure it works properly, we’d be happy to take a look at it for you. Just email or call us to set up a time.

VIOLINS  
VIOLAS  
CELLOS  
STRING BASSES

CLARINETS  
SAXOPHONES

FLUTES  
TRUMPETS  
FRENCH HORNS  
BARITONES  
TROMBONES

Ms. Molly Finnerty  
[finnertym@mason.k12.oh.us](mailto:finnertym@mason.k12.oh.us)  
459-2850 ext. 71490

Mr. Chad Fourman  
[fourmanc@mason.k12.oh.us](mailto:fourmanc@mason.k12.oh.us)  
459-2850 ext. 75241

Ms. Christy Downer  
[downerc@mason.k12.oh.us](mailto:downerc@mason.k12.oh.us)  
459-2850 ext. 75240

- ❖ **Avoid buying instruments where you buy tires and bananas!** Many discount stores are selling instruments of very, very poor quality. Please don’t buy these instruments. Their low price may lead you to believe you are getting a great ‘deal’, but the price reflects the questionable integrity of materials and workmanship used in the manufacturing process. The music industry has labeled these so called instruments: “ISOs” (instrument shaped objects). You need to be warned that most instrument repair shops will refuse to do work on ISOs. For example, the metal used for woodwind keys is often so soft, it bends under normal use. Instrument repair shops can do nothing to change the quality of metal used at the manufacturer.
- ❖ **PLEASE be wary of internet and garage sale ‘specials’.** There is junk out there, so if you have ANY doubt regarding the integrity of an instrument, we’d be happy to check it for you before you buy it. We’ve seen a lot of student frustration caused by instruments of poor quality. This is a good example of ‘you get what you pay for’ in most cases. Don’t hesitate to contact us if you have any doubt!!!

### EXPLORATORY SESSIONS:

- ❖ Is your student interested in playing a musical instrument, but having a hard time deciding which one to choose? We have been able to borrow a limited number of instruments from other schools so we can allow students to hold and play them. Parents can contact us to make an appointment for their child if this experience would help the decision process. These sessions are intended to help students who are having trouble making a choice. Because we will be limited in the number of students we can work with at one time, **IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU CONTACT THE DIRECTORS BY PHONE OR EMAIL TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT.**

#### FOR STRING INSTRUMENTS:

Please call or email Miss Finnerty (see above) to set up an after-school appointment for your child to explore the instrument(s) they are interested in trying. Space is limited. Students may try the violin, viola, cello, and the string bass.

#### FOR BAND INSTRUMENTS:

Please call or email Ms. Downer or Mr. Fourman (see above) to set up an after-school appointment for your child to explore the instrument(s) they are interested in trying. Space and equipment is limited to flute, clarinet, trumpet, dbl French horn, trombone, and baritone.

[www.masonorchestra.com](http://www.masonorchestra.com)\*

[www.masonbands.com](http://www.masonbands.com)\*

\*These websites have pictures, descriptions and listening examples for each instrument. Simply click on the ‘Intermediate School’ page at these websites for helpful information on choosing the best instrument for your child.

Mason Intermediate School 2009  
**6<sup>th</sup> grade Band \*OR\* Orchestra**  
*Enrollment card*

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Print student name

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5<sup>th</sup> /6<sup>th</sup> grade homeroom teacher's name (if known)

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Today's date

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Preferred contact method – Email address and/or phone number

*Please indicate a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> choice below. We'll make contact if there is any problem with the 1<sup>st</sup> choice.*

Violin

Viola

Cello

Bass

Flute

Clarinet

Trumpet

(Double) French horn

Trombone

Baritone

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Already own an instrument for your child? Please list it here

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No experience is necessary, but if your child plays a musical instrument, please describe their experience

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Parent / Guardian signature