

## **NEW Enrollment Process for 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band \*OR\* Orchestra**

It's now online! Please contact MI-56 if paper documents are needed. Enrollment for Orchestra & Band will coincide with Teacher/Team selections.

Access the student manager at [www.masonohioschools.com](http://www.masonohioschools.com)

Instrumental Music is an optional activity offered every other day for the entire year. It will replace a special offering each trimester. If your student decides to play an instrument, they will need to choose 3 other specials classes that each last a trimester on the opposite day from Instrumental Music.

The other special classes are: ART, HEALTH, MUSIC, PHYSICAL EDUCATION, SPANISH, & TECHNOLOGY

If students want to participate in Band or Orchestra, they should make a 1<sup>st</sup> AND 2<sup>nd</sup> choice of instrument. We will contact you if there is any problem with your child's 1<sup>st</sup> choice.

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

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

Woodwind instruments - Clarinet, Flute, and Alto Saxophone\* (limited to 36 – exploratory session on a second choice instrument is required for anyone interested in playing saxophone).

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

Percussion WILL NOT be offered as a beginning band instrument choice. Students interested in percussion need to play a woodwind or brass instrument in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade to learn how to count rhythms and read music. At the end of 6<sup>th</sup> grade, students will audition on mallet instrument AND snare drum.

**BAND**  
**informational**  
**Meeting:**

*Thursday, April 14*  
*7:00 PM*  
*MI - 56 cafeteria*

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

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

**Violin**

**Viola**

**Cello**

**String Bass**

**ORCHESTRA**  
**informational**  
**Meeting:**

*Wednesday, April 13*  
*7:00 PM*  
*MI - 56 cafeteria*

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### **??? Having Trouble Choosing an Instrument???**

Your child can sign up for an **exploratory session** to hold and play the instrument to help them make a decision.

**EXPLORATORY SESSIONS ARE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY (usually 3:00-3:30)**

**Call or Email to set up a time**

#### **FOR ORCHESTRA INSTRUMENTS:**

Mrs. Molly Dolan  
[dolanm@mason.k12.oh.us](mailto:dolanm@mason.k12.oh.us)  
459-2850 ext. 71490

May 10 - 13  
May 16 - 20  
Other times by appointment

*(Information continues on the back)*

#### **FOR BAND INSTRUMENTS:**

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

FLUTE / CLARINET April 26-29  
TRUMPET / TROMBONE May 2-6  
OTHER May 9, 10, 12, 13  
(flute & clarinet require separate appointment days)

\*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.

## FAQ'S

**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

Mrs. Molly Dolan  
[dolanm@mason.k12.oh.us](mailto:dolanm@mason.k12.oh.us)  
459-2850 ext. 71490

CLARINETS  
SAXOPHONES

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

FLUTES  
TRUMPETS  
FRENCH HORNS  
BARITONES  
TROMBONES

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!!!

**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 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.**