

Merrill Middle School Performing Arts
2020-2021 Rising 6th Graders
Please complete and return by April 13, 2020

Students may select only one of the 5 options listed below:

1. Beginning Band (no experience)
2. Band
3. Chorus
4. Beginning Orchestra
5. Orchestra

Beginning Band

Students wishing to play a woodwind or brass instrument *and* never participated in band before. This class is an exciting year-long class with the goal of joining the 7th grade band the following school year (2021-2022).

Through specialized instruction, each student and Mr. Morgan will determine which instrument is the best fit. (Note: Percussion instruments will not be taught in this class). Most students will be required to rent, or otherwise obtain their own band instruments. Exceptions will be made on an individual basis. Once a student is assigned an instrument, students will participate in both small and large group instruction. A common method book will be used for this class, as well as having individual practice time and 'Smart Music' (computer program) opportunities.

Music fundamentals of rhythm, clefs, note reading, tone production and other music theory concepts will be taught as students gain confidence as a musician. Students in 'Beginning Band' will not perform in concerts. Assessment and documentation of learning will include other performance opportunities, (individual and group) as well as written and playing assessments. Music is an international language and this course is a great opportunity to become part of the Merrill Band Tradition!

Band

Band is for all students who have been involved in the band as a 5th grader, or who have taken private lessons. In 6th grade, band students learn lots of new notes, gain musical knowledge and instrumental performance skills through lessons, ensemble practice, and computer technology. Students enjoy playing and having a large band experience.

Chorus

The class for students who love LOVE to sing! In this class, the focus will be on large and small group singing and will also include *required* independent singing for assessment purposes. Chorus is a place where you get to sing and perform many types of music, and at the same time, learn about music theory and study the elements of a great vocal music performance. There are opportunities to audition for solos, as well as extra-curricular offerings. Each grade-level chorus

will perform two afternoon/evening concerts at Merrill as well as have opportunities to perform in the community.

Beginning Orchestra

Beginning Orchestra is for any student who would like to learn to play a stringed instrument. This class is designed for students who do not have experience in the performance-based orchestras. Highly motivated beginning strings students have the opportunity to transition into grade-level performance groups upon demonstrating the necessary instrumental techniques and musicianship skills/techniques.

Class time will be spent learning the basics of proper strings technique, basic music theory, and musical vocabulary necessary for playing a stringed instrument. A common strings method book will be used. Small-group and large-group instruction, coupled with individual practice time will provide the opportunity for proficiency. During first semester, all beginning students will start on violin with the option to switch to another string instrument second semester. While performance will not be the goal of the beginning orchestra class, there will be opportunities for group and individual performance assessment in class.

Orchestra

Orchestra is for students who have previous playing experience. Generally, this means students who started group or private lessons before coming to Merrill. Students can expect to play in two evening concerts, perform at school assemblies and have the opportunity to participate in city-wide music festivals. The instruments in the string orchestra are violin, viola, cello and bass.

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Please complete and return this section, to your teacher, by April 13th, 2020

Student Name: _____

Elementary School: _____

Place an 'X' next to your music choice. Please also write in your musical instrument, if applicable.

_____ Beginning Band (no prior band experience)

_____ Band ~ Instrument I play is: _____

_____ Chorus

_____ Beginning Orchestra (no prior playing experience)

_____ Orchestra ~ I play the _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

