

# Hilliard City Schools Instrumental Music Department

## Orchestra and Band Program

### **Informational Meetings:**

For more information about these programs, please try to attend the meeting where your child will attend sixth grade:

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>THARP</u></b> Monday, February 4 Tharp Sixth Grade Building <b>Band &amp; Orchestra: 7PM</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>STATION</u></b> Thursday, January 31 Station Performing Arts Center <b>Orchestra: 6:30PM</b> <b>Band: 7:30PM</b></p>
---	---

Dear Fifth Grade Parents,

We hope this letter finds everyone enjoying the new 2019 year and relaxing after the always busy holiday season. It is now the time for us to discuss the opportunity all current fifth grade students have to participate in beginning band or orchestra next school year! While students will not begin to play until sixth grade begins, we will discuss all of the available instruments, help students choose an appropriate instrument, and have all interested students register for the instrumental music program this spring. We are enthusiastic about our instrumental music program and eagerly look forward to this new crop of budding young artists to begin their musical journey!

Toward the end of January, all fifth grade students will attend an instrument demonstration at their school. We will demonstrate each instrument's appearance and sound. Here is a list of the available instruments.

**ORCHESTRA:** Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass

**BAND:** Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, Horn, Trombone, Baritone, Percussion (Bells AND snare pad)

We know that this process can be overwhelming and confusing and we want to make it as easy as possible for you and your busy family. Please accept this invitation to join us for a short meeting to receive more information about the instrumental program and how to join band or orchestra. See above for your child's school and meeting times.

During this meeting, we will discuss the sixth grade instrumental schedule, as well as provide important information regarding choosing and obtaining an instrument. We will also describe how to sign-up for a 10 minute "fitting" where students have the opportunity to work one-on-one with a Hilliard orchestra/band director to find the best instrument suited for them. These "fittings" will be scheduled **February 5-7** after school.

We encourage you to check out our Hilliard Music website at [www.hilliardschools.org/music](http://www.hilliardschools.org/music) and select "5<sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra" or "5<sup>th</sup> Grade Band" for your school (far right tab) for more continuous updates about our instrumental program.

At the start of sixth grade is the only time Hilliard students can begin an instrument so we hope you will take advantage of this opportunity now! Please make note of the above-mentioned dates. Feel free to contact either of the directors below if you have any questions or concerns. We eagerly look forward to meeting you and offering further details about our orchestra and band program.

Sincerely,

The Hilliard Station and Tharp Band and Orchestra Directors

Station Orchestra: Sarah\_Popovich@hboe.org

Station Band: Diana\_Nicklas@hboe.org or Michaela\_Maynard@hboe.org

Tharp Orchestra: Caitlin\_Bartholic@hboe.org

Tharp Band: Nicole\_Brocke@hboe.org

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What if I cannot attend the informational meeting? Can my son/daughter still participate in the band/orchestra program?**

Yes. Please check the websites for information, fitting sign-ups, and registration. Feel free to contact the band or orchestra teachers at the sixth grade school your child will attend if you have any further questions.

### **What is a “fitting”?**

Because everyone has different mouth, arm, and hand shapes, students will be more successful on certain instruments than others. Therefore, we encourage each student to go through a “fitting” where they will get the opportunity to try out different instruments with a qualified musician to help them choose an instrument that he/she will be successful playing.

### **I have older children who have gone through the program. Do I still need to attend the informational meeting?**

The beginning instrumental program has changed now that it is in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Please check the websites for information, fitting sign-ups, and registration if you cannot attend the meeting. Feel free to contact us if you have any further questions.

### **We already have an instrument at home. Do we need to attend the informational meeting and/or sign up for a “fitting”?**

We strongly encourage all parents to attend the meeting if possible to get all of the information about the Hilliard Orchestra or Band Program. We also encourage you to sign up for a “fitting”. You can use this time to make sure that your instrument is in good working condition and will be a good “fit” for your child.

### **Can my child participate in both band AND orchestra?**

Learning an instrument takes a lot of time and commitment. To help increase the likelihood of student success, it is the practice of the HCSD Performing Arts Department to have students start only one instrument in the sixth grade. If your child isn't sure about orchestra vs. band, try to attend both informational meetings and sign up for a fitting time for both a band and an orchestra instrument. But he/she will need to make a decision on one instrument by the registration deadline.

### **If my child does not start an instrument in sixth grade, can my he/she join orchestra or band in seventh grade?**

The beginning instrumental program is only offered in sixth grade. If a student wants to join in seventh grade or later during the sixth grade year, he/she will be required to take private lessons to catch up on the missed materials before joining the group.

## Fun Facts

- *Research shows that Instrumental Music Education aids students in skills such as flexibility, the ability to solve problems and communicate; the ability to learn new skills, to be creative and innovative, and to strive for excellence.*
- *In a 2005 test-taking College-Bound Seniors, those with an average of 2 years of study in the arts and music had significantly higher GPAs in each subject than those students who did not.*
- *Studies show that students who participate in band or strings show the lowest lifetime use of alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drugs. Students that participate in music classes are less likely to be disruptive students in class*

## SOME FAMOUS PEOPLE WHO PLAYED AN INSTRUMENT IN SCHOOL

Woody Allen, Actor – Clarinet  
Neil Armstrong, Astronaut – Baritone  
Halle Berry, Actress – Flute  
Jack Benny, Comedian – Violin  
Louise Braille, Inventor – Violin  
Tedy Bruschi, NFL Linebacker – Saxophone  
Drew Carey, Actor – Trumpet  
Johnny Carson, TV personality – Percussion  
Albert Einstein, Physicist – Violin  
Tina Fey, Actress – Flute  
Benjamin Franklin, Inventor – Violin  
Jennifer Garner, Actress – Saxophone

Ryan Gosling, Actor – Cello  
Bill Gates, Microsoft – Trombone  
Richard Gere, Actor – Trumpet  
Kareem Abdul Jabbar, NBA Great – Saxophone  
Thomas Jefferson, President – Cello  
Alyssa Milano, Actress – Flute  
Prince Charles, Royalty – Cello  
Oscar Robertson, NBA Legend – Flute  
“Mr. Rogers”, TV Personality – Trombone  
Steven Spielberg, Film Director - Clarinet  
Meryl Streep, Actress – Violin  
Vanessa Williams, Singer – French Horn