

## **TMS MUSIC DEPARTMENT FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)**

### **WHAT INSTRUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE IN BAND?**

- Band instruments include all **BRASS** (trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, and tuba), **WOODWIND** (flute, oboe, clarinet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, bass clarinet, and bassoon) and **PERCUSSION** instruments (drums, keyboard, and auxiliary).

### **WHAT INSTRUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE IN ORCHESTRA?**

- Orchestra instruments include all the **STRING** instruments (violin, viola, cello, and double bass).

### **IF I'VE NEVER PLAYED AN INSTRUMENT BEFORE, CAN I JOIN AN ENSEMBLE IN 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE?**

- YES, we encourage beginners in all three ensembles.

### **CAN I PARTICIPATE IN MORE THAN ONE PERFORMING ENSEMBLE?**

- YES, you can participate in band and chorus OR orchestra and chorus, but not band and orchestra. If you choose to participate in band or orchestra during the school day, you can still participate in chorus by attending Early Morning chorus rehearsal once a week before school.
- This Early Morning chorus option is **only** available if you already participate in band or orchestra during the school day.

### **CAN I SWITCH INSTRUMENTS?**

- YES, during the first few weeks of school, band and orchestra teachers will demonstrate all of the instruments. We especially encourage students to try the “bigger” instruments such as trombone, baritone, tuba, bass clarinet, bassoon, baritone/tenor saxophone, cello, and double bass.

### **IF MY CHILD CHOOSES A LARGER INSTRUMENT, ARE THERE ANY AVAILABLE FOR USE?**

- YES, TMS does own some of the larger instruments listed above. In addition, we encourage parents to rent an instrument to use for home practice.

### **CAN MY CHILD PLAY PERCUSSION IN BAND?**

- Because of space and instrument limitations, we can only have 10 percussionists in each grade level band. Typically, anyone who studied percussion in Elementary for the last one full school year will be included.

### **WHAT IF MY CHILD PLAYS PIANO?**

- The Chorus does use student piano accompanists; this is done by audition with the chorus director, Mrs. Girvan – please contact her directly if your child is interested in this option. The Jazz band also uses pianists. Many pianists have joined Band and Orchestra, but learn another instrument.

### **WHAT IS THE EARLY MORNING LESSON SCHEDULE?**

- All 6<sup>th</sup> band and orchestra students have one lesson per week from 7:30 – 8:15. 6<sup>th</sup> grade Chorus students do not have early morning lessons unless they are also in band or orchestra, in which case they would have one chorus rehearsal per week before school.

### **HOW MANY CONCERTS ARE THERE?**

- We have TWO regularly scheduled evening concerts, but there are numerous other performing opportunities throughout the school year. Concert attendance is a mandatory requirement of joining Band, Orchestra, or Chorus.

### **WHAT KIND OF MUSIC DOES THE BAND, CHORUS, AND ORCHESTRA PLAY?**

- A wide variety, but the best way to answer this question is to invite you to our 6<sup>th</sup> grade Spring concert on Wednesday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.

### **MORE QUESTIONS?**

- After this evening if any additional questions come to mind, please check out our Fusion Pages or contact:
  - BAND and JAZZ BAND: Dr. Burja at [kburja@tenafly.k12.nj.us](mailto:kburja@tenafly.k12.nj.us)
  - BAND: Mrs. DeJoseph at [adejoseph@tenafly.k12.nj.us](mailto:adejoseph@tenafly.k12.nj.us)
  - CHORUS: Mrs. Girvan at [dgirvan@tenafly.k12.nj.us](mailto:dgirvan@tenafly.k12.nj.us)
  - ORCHESTRA, PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA, and FIDDLE CLUB: Dr. Rzonsa at [nrzonsa@tenafly.k12.nj.us](mailto:nrzonsa@tenafly.k12.nj.us)