

March 18, 2013

Discovery Middle School
10050 Brummitt Road
Granger, IN 46530

Dear Fifth Grade Students and Parents:

The Department of Music is proud to offer beginning orchestra classes to interested students! These beginning classes will include the instruments violin, viola, cello, and bass. Sixth graders will have a forty-five minute orchestra class every day during the regular school day.

Joining a music ensemble such as orchestra can provide students with vast new experiences that form friendships and stimulate the brain. Starting an instrument in 6th grade will provide students with the proper track and instruction for continuing through the many opportunities available in high school, college, and beyond. High school offers opportunities through state competitions, chamber ensemble evenings, trips, and much more! Plus, many students receive scholarships for continuing to play in an orchestra in college even if they are not studying music. Also, playing in orchestra does not conflict with other extra-curricular activities so your student can participate in the many other opportunities available at Discovery Middle School and later Penn High School.

Please join us for one of the "Try-it! Nights" to allow your child to experience the potential they hold with string instruments. The "Try-it! Night" will allow you and your child to be more acquainted with the orchestra program and the instruments. At each of the elementary schools, I will be presenting and sharing each instrument with the students as a preview to this night. While the elementary school presentations may give your child a good example of what they would like to choose, at each night you will have an individual consultation to help the instrument selection process and to answer any questions. Please bring the attached form with you, and after it is filled out, return it to one of the music teachers. These nights will be held on the following evenings:

Monday, April 15, 2013 7:00 P.M. – Horizon Elementary School cafeteria

Tuesday, April 16, 2013 7:30 P.M. – Mary Frank Elementary School cafeteria

Thursday, April 18, 2013 7:00 P.M. – Discovery Middle School band & orchestra rooms

If you are unable to attend one of these meetings but are interested, please e-mail gamlere@miamioh.edu.

There are no extra fees associated with orchestra within the school. However, students are expected to provide their own instrument, rosin, method book, and pencil. Other accessories may be needed too such as a music stand. Violinists and violists will also need a shoulder pad as part of the instrument, and bassists and cellists will need an endpin stop.

Over the past few years, the high school orchestra has consistently ranked in the top 10 and higher within the state. This is a distinction that is achievable because of a large number of excelling beginners who love orchestra. We know that participation in the music program can add many positive attributes to a student's life, and we hope you and your child will choose to become a part of this excellent opportunity.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Gamble
gamlere@miamioh.edu
Orchestra Director
Discovery Middle School

Discovery Middle School Orchestra

(Please have this sheet when you and your child select an instrument and turn in once a decision has been reached)

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Current School: _____ Music Teacher: _____

Order your top three choices

Violin _____

Viola _____

Cello _____

Parent Signature: _____

String Bass _____