

Milford Instrumental Music Department

Brian Brown

Paul Schrameck

John Espy

Chrissy Hutzal

September 8, 2011

Dear 6th Grade Parents:

The instrumental music department is happy that you have decided to join us in the "wonderful world of music making." The initial stages of learning anything new can sometimes be frustrating. With your help, we know that our program will afford your child a successful music experience.

Small amounts of concentrated practice are better than longer periods of unfocused practice time. If you can provide a quiet place at the same time every day where your child will be uninterrupted, he/she will develop correct practice habits that will last a lifetime. Good ventilation, a straight chair, and adequate lighting will all help to ensure success. The book we have selected for your child's beginning experience with music contains many familiar folk songs that you will easily recognize. You do not need to have a background in music to know if your child is playing correctly. Your interest and praise are very important factors in guaranteeing your child's enjoyment of music, and success in playing his/her instrument.

One of the most valuable opportunities we offer is our private lesson program, and **6th grade is the absolute best time to begin private lessons.** Every successful band program has a large percentage of its students involved in private lessons. This is an opportunity for students to work individually with a professional of his/her particular instrument. Most of our instructors are from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music - one of the most elite music schools in the country. The lessons will be given at Milford High School and Milford Junior High School. We traditionally have a large percentage of the 6th Grade Band students taking advantage of this wonderful opportunity. For more information, please refer to the attached private lessons sheet.

Finally, we would like to explain our evaluation policy. Although students do not receive an official grade for 6th Grade Band, we want to prepare them for JHS and HS Band, where they will receive a regular grade for band on their report card. Students will be evaluated in the following areas: classroom participation and effort, quizzes, tests, and concert attendance. Classroom participation and effort includes attending band when scheduled, and being on time. We have a very limited amount of time to spend with our sixth grade students, and therefore their attendance and promptness is extremely critical to their success. Although band is before the start of the normal school day, students are expected to attend band class unless they are absent from school on that particular day. Learning is hindered significantly when students miss class. Classroom participation also includes having their instrument and music at every rehearsal, exerting the proper effort while in rehearsal, and having assignments prepared. Students will also have occasional quizzes and tests. In order to be properly prepared for each rehearsal, students should be practicing 20 - 30 minutes per day at home. The final portion of the student's evaluation is derived from concert attendance. Concerts are the culmination of months of hard work. Every student needs to plan on attending our performances. We have included a list of our concert dates at the close of this letter. Please clear these dates on you calendar.

We are looking forward to an exciting and rewarding year with the 6th Grade Band. We are confident that those band members who become involved and work enthusiastically will find band a truly rewarding and enjoyable experience.

Sincerely,

Paul Schrameck, John Espy, Brian Brown, and Chrissy Hutzal

2011-12 6th Grade Band Concert Dates

TBA, December..... Classroom Demonstration
During normal band time at each elementary

Tuesday, May 15th..... Spring Concert
7:00 PM at Milford High School

2011-12 Sixth Grade Band Weekly Schedule

Pattison Elem.	Monday, Wednesday and Friday	7:30-8:05 (Mr. Brown/Ms. Hutzel)
McCormick Elem.	Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	7:30-8:05 (Mr. Schrameck/Mr. Espy)
Boyd E. Smith Elem.	Tuesday, Thursday and Friday	8:15-8:50 (Mr. Schrameck/Mr. Espy)
Seipelt Elem.	Tuesday, Thursday and Friday	8:15-8:50 (Mr. Brown/Ms. Hutzel)
Meadowview Elem	Tuesday, Thursday and Friday	7:30-8:05 (Mr. Brown/Ms. Hutzel)
Mulberry Elem.	Monday, Wednesday, and Friday	8:15-8:50 (Mr. Schrameck/Mr. Espy)