

# WELCOME TO INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

## DISTRICT 204 MUSIC DEPARTMENT



## BAND AND ORCHESTRA

*“The arts especially address the idea of aesthetic experience. An aesthetic experience is one in which your senses are operating at their peak; when you’re present in the current moment; when you’re resonating with the excitement of this thing that you’re experiencing; when you are fully alive.” -Sir Ken Robinson*

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Indian Prairie School District 204 is pleased to enrich our 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum with instruction and credit course offerings in instrumental music. Beginning in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, students have the opportunity to join the District’s GRAMMY Award music program by studying one instrument from the string, woodwind, brass or percussion families. Each of the instruments will be demonstrated for current 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at their elementary school during our Band and Orchestra *Prelude* exploratory sessions beginning in November. At the conclusion of *Prelude*, your child will have held, listened to, “experimented” with, and possibly made a sound or two on several instruments. *Prelude* is specifically designed to guide students in selecting an instrument for study that holds promise for long term success and enjoyment. We are committed to helping you and your child make an informed choice prior to the registration deadline for middle school classes in late January.

Participation in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Band or Orchestra program includes obtaining a suitable instrument and related supplies. Quinlan and Fabish Music Company has met District 204 criteria to be designated as our preferred music instrument vendor. Quinlan and Fabish will deliver your child’s rental instrument and supplies directly to your child’s middle school prior to the start of 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes. As a convenience, representatives from Quinlan & Fabish will be available at Registration Night to explain rental contracts, deposits, delivery, etc. The on-campus presence of Quinlan and Fabish Music Company is provided as a convenience to our families. There is no obligation to rent or buy an instrument from this company. Should you elect to secure an instrument from another retailer, we ask that you refer to the section “CHOOSING AN INSTRUMENT RENTAL MUSIC STORE” in this brochure.

Sincerely,

The District 204 Instrumental Music Education Faculty

### DISTRICT 204 MUSIC WEBSITES

Metea Valley H.S. – [www.meteamusic.org](http://www.meteamusic.org)

Neuqua Valley H.S. – [www.neuquamusic.org](http://www.neuquamusic.org)

Waubonsie Valley H.S. – [www.wvhsmusic.org](http://www.wvhsmusic.org)

## **PHILOSOPHY OF THE DISTRICT 204 6TH GRADE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC EDUCATION**

*The arts connect students to themselves and each other. Creating an artwork is a personal experience. The student draws upon his or her personal resources to generate the result. By engaging his or her whole person, the student feels invested in ways that are deeper than 'knowing the answers.'*

*Task Force on Arts & Creativity in Education*

The IPSD 204 instrumental music program is designed to provide 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students with the opportunity to further explore the creative and affective aspects of music, as well as the role of the arts in our cultural heritage. Through study of a musical instrument, students cultivate a different way of thinking about, experiencing, and understanding the world around them while gaining a life-long vehicle for their creativity, self-expression, and personal enrichment.

The District 204 bands and orchestra are not activities. Instrumental music is a sequential fine arts credit program. Each grade level, 6-12, follows a curriculum designed to meet District 204 and state learning objectives, as well as the new National Core Arts standards with high measures of achievement. In every sense, the instruction delivered in our instrumental music classes is a **College Readiness Fine Arts program**; Cultural Engineering if you will.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Program Goals**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Instrumental Music Program provides each student-musician the opportunity to:

- 1) Continue the development of their musical intelligence, creativity, and understanding of music through the study of an instrument.
- 2) Acquire the fundamental skills of playing a musical instrument using proper posture and hand position.
- 3) Develop techniques for producing a characteristic tone quality.
- 4) Develop critical listening skills related to pitch awareness, major and minor tonalities, pulse, meter, rhythm, and tone color.
- 5) Expand reading skills for the interpretation of music notation.

- 6) Cultivate an understanding of different musical languages/styles and their associations with world cultures past and present.
- 7) Develop the ability to set individual goals, maintain a self-learning work ethic, & realize a sense of achievement upon completion.
- 8) Develop and utilize in multiple situations the ability to communicate, work and "perform" collaboratively in small and large groups towards common goals.
- 9) Explore an outlet for individual creativity through sound.
- 10) Lay the foundation for rewarding music-making and music learning at the middle school, high school, and university levels, as well as within the adult community.

### **PRELUDE BAND AND ORCHESTRA**

Before registering for the middle school instrumental music program, all current 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will have the opportunity to participate in our Band and Orchestra *Prelude* program. This approximately 6-week program provides each student with an overview of all the string, woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments, hands-on experiences, and a review of basic fundamentals in pitch, rhythm and harmony readiness. Through observation, the instructors will be able to determine which instrument(s) is best suited for each individual student.

### **REHEARSAL SCHEDULE**

All 6<sup>th</sup> grade instrumental students participate in daily large group rehearsal as part of their middle school class schedule. In addition, all students receive small group, instrument-specific technique instruction. Technique lessons take part during a student's instrumental music class.

### **PRIVATE LESSONS**

The value of a one-to-one private lesson has a tremendous influence on the proper skill development and musical growth. Individual instruction is the best way to help a developing musician fulfill his or her potential. Please request our recommended list of approved Private Instructors (professionals) and/or Guided Practice Teachers (high school tutors) if this is an additional support program you wish to offer your musician at the start of 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

## PERFORMANCE

Performances are integral and culminating experiences for a musician and are important evaluative tools for music teachers in assessing student achievement and growth. Since every musician makes a unique contribution to any performance, attendance at all performances is required. Performance dates are provided in advance and every effort has been made to avoid conflicts with other District 204 and school activities. Should an emergency arise, please contact your student's band or orchestra director as soon as possible.

## PRACTICE

A student's success on a musical instrument is dependent upon not only positive participation within group instruction but on daily individual practice. The **musical reward** of playing any musical instrument is attained only through the development of muscle strength and muscle memory as a result of multiple successful repetitions of an isolated skill. Students should practice 15-20 minutes daily to reinforce the *Habits of Excellence* introduced in class.

## BAND OR ORCHESTRA AND CHORUS

Students who are interested in learning a band or orchestra instrument, but who also desire to continue in vocal music may enroll in a combined Band/Orchestra AND Chorus program known as "**Combo.**" Each year many 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade students elect this combined music class option as a way of enriching their musical experience and expanding their music education.

The *Combo* class option does not require an additional period in a student's overall class schedule. Students electing **Combo** participate in full vocal and instrumental music ensemble rehearsals on an every other day basis, as well as weekly instrumental technique classes. *Combo* students perform in concert with both their respective choir and band or orchestra on several occasions through the school year.

## PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents play a crucial role in helping their children succeed in the Band or Orchestra. The following guidelines will help contribute to your child's success:

- ◆ Help your child to establish and sustain good practice habits.
- ◆ Provide a quiet area and a consistent after school or early evening time for daily practice sessions.
- ◆ Contact your child's music teacher if you have questions or concerns.
- ◆ See that your child is present and on time for all concerts.
- ◆ Support your musician by attending all concerts and other performances.

*Parents whose children qualify for the District 204 Fee Waiver Program or have financial concerns with renting an instrument are encouraged to contact their instrumental music teacher to discuss alternative arrangements.*

The National Association for Music Education has published an excellent resource devoted to helping your child be successful in Instrumental Music. This book, entitled **Growing Your Musician**, can be purchased at [www.nafme.org](http://www.nafme.org).

Additional information on music education can be found on the ARTSpeaks website ([www.ARTSpeaks204.org](http://www.ARTSpeaks204.org)) and the Illinois Music Education Assoc. website ([www.ilmea.org](http://www.ilmea.org))

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*I know I am not alone in saying that I would not want students to be sacrificing their commitment to the arts. In fact 44% of the entering Class of 2013 was involved in vocal or instrumental music.*

Laura Goddard  
University of Iowa Admissions

**Of special note:** *Class of 2015 senior musicians accepted \$6.2 million in college scholarships.*

## CHOOSING AN INSTRUMENT RENTAL MUSIC STORE

Consider the following questions when selecting a rental instrument for your child:

- Does the music store display a wide variety of quality string, woodwind, brass and percussion instruments, supplies, method books and music?
- Are band rental instruments new or reconditioned?
- Does the instrument meet the District 204 recommended brand listing?
- Do clarinet, saxophone, brass and percussion rental instruments include the District 204 recommended mouthpiece/sticks/mallets?
- Do string instrument rentals include: Dominant, Helicore or comparable high quality strings, fine tuners for all 4 strings, pre-taped positions, full sized rosin blocks, horsehair bows, and either a shoulder rest sponge for violins and violas, or a "Rock stop" for cellos and basses?
- How is the instrument delivered to you?
- Does the rental contract include a maintenance/replacement program and/or a "Step-Up Instrument" option?
- Are quality loaner instruments readily available during periods of repair?
- Are repairs completed in-house or out-sourced? How are instruments delivered when repairs are completed?
- Are replacement strings for rental instruments provided at no charge?
- How quickly can switching to a larger stringed instrument be arranged?

*It is important to consider many factors when renting an instrument. Perhaps the most important, though, is the service and support provided during the rental period so that your child has an instrument that works well.*

## RECOMMENDED INSTRUMENTS & MOUTHPIECES

**Flute:** Gemeinhardt, Yamaha, Selmer, or Armstrong.

**Oboe:** Yamaha, Selmer, or Buffet.

**Clarinet:** Yamaha, Selmer, Leblanc, or Buffet with a VanDoren M-13 Lyre mouthpiece

**Alto Sax:** Yamaha or Selmer with a Selmer C\* mouthpiece.

**Trumpet/Cornet:** Yamaha, Selmer, or Bach w/Bach 5C mouthpiece

**F Horn:** Accent double horn w/Holton Farkas med. cup mouthpiece.

**Trombone:** Yamaha, Selmer, or Bach w/Bach 6½ AL mouthpiece.

**Baritone/Euphonium:** full-size Yamaha or Selmer w/Bach 6½ AL mouthpiece.

**Tuba:** Helleberg 120S mouthpiece. (*Instrument rented from District 204*)

**Percussion:** Adams Academy xylophone & Vic Firth Heavy Hitter 12" Practice pad.

**Violin, Viola, Cello and Bass:** The quality of your student's rental instrument is extremely important. Most rental companies in our area will provide you with a quality stringed instrument. We do not recommend purchasing an instrument for your 6th grade string player. Please contact your student's orchestra teacher with specific questions.

## MATERIALS NEEDED

**All Band and Orchestra** students will need the following:

- ◆ A quality or an approved instrument in good playing condition
- ◆ Music stand for home practice
- ◆ Name tag on instrument case/Pencil stored in case
- ◆ *Highly Recommended: Metronome*

**Orchestra** students will need the following:

- ◆ 1-2 District 204 approved string orchestra method books
- ◆ Violin & Viola: Kun violin shoulder rest (15" Viola: Kun viola rest)
- ◆ Cello & Bass: "Rock stop" (incl. with some rentals)
- ◆ Bow & rosin (incl. with some rentals)
- ◆ Soft cloth for cleaning instrument

**Woodwind** students will need the following:

- ◆ 1-2 District 204 approved band method books
- ◆ Winning Rhythms book
- ◆ A minimum of 2 reeds in good playing condition  
Oboe: Red string strength medium soft from [www.nielsen-woodwinds.com](http://www.nielsen-woodwinds.com)  
Clarinet: Rico Royal #3 with a Van Doren M-13 Lyre mouthpiece  
Saxophone: Rico Royal #2.5 with a Selmer C\* mouthpiece
- ◆ Appropriate cleaning swab/cloth including a cleaning rod for flute
- ◆ Reed guard/case for 2 or more reeds (*Oboe, Clarinet & Sax only*)
- ◆ Cork grease (*Oboe, Clarinet & Sax only*)

**Brass** students will need the following:

- ◆ 1-2 District 204 approved band method books
- ◆ Winning Rhythms book
- ◆ Cornet/Trumpet: Bach 5C mouthpiece
- ◆ French Horn: Holton-Farkas medium cup mouthpiece
- ◆ Trombone/Baritone: Bach 6 1/2 AL mouthpiece
- ◆ Tuba: Helleberg 120S mouthpiece
- ◆ Tuning slide grease & valve oil or hand slide grease appropriate for the instrument
- ◆ Water rag (wash cloth)

**Percussion** students will need the following:

- ◆ Adams Academy xylo. & Vic Firth Heavy Hitter 12" practice pad.
- ◆ Vic Firth SD1 snare drum sticks, Innovative Percussion F9 xylophone mallets & Zildjian stick/mallet bag.
- ◆ Fresh Approach to the Snare Drum & Fresh Approach to Mallet Percussion method books (DVD included)