

Penn-Harris-Madison Middle Schools Bands and Orchestras

# Instrument Selection Night

information for

## Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band & Orchestra



***You are invited to join us in this tradition of excellence!***

The Penn Bands and Orchestras have a long tradition of creating musical excellence and nurturing the skills children need to be successful in today's world: perseverance, dedication, short and long-term goals, team work, mentoring, caring for your fellow student, and so much more. We encourage you to take this opportunity to involve your child in this meaningful and exciting part of the PHM curriculum.

Beginning instrument classes  
are offered **ONLY** to students  
entering the 6<sup>th</sup> grade

This is the right time and the right place to play an instrument!

### **Joining Band and Orchestra is easier than ever**

1. Make your appointment - online or call
2. Try the instruments that interest you
3. Sign-up for your Beginner Instrument Summer class
4. Obtain your instrument
5. Register for Band or Orchestra at your middle school

### **Selection Nights Appointments available 4:30-7:30pm**

Discovery Middle School	Monday 2/24 and Tuesday 2/25
Schmucker Middle School	Tuesday 3/3 and Wednesday 3/4
Grissom Middle School	Monday 3/9 and Tuesday 3/10

*Instrument Selection Night is for both parent and student!  
If possible, make your appointment at the school your child will attend.  
Appointments may be made at another middle school as needed.*

# Steps to your future as a PHM Band & Orchestra Member

## 1. Make your appointment Online or Call

**Online** (preferred) - go to the PHM main page [www.phm.k12.in.us](http://www.phm.k12.in.us)

- click on **P-H-M News** header (middle of page in gold bar)

- scroll down to find the **Instrument Selection Night** link

- choose your Selection Night **Appointment date and time**

Discovery MS	Monday 2/24 and Tuesday 2/25	4:30-7:30pm
Schmucker MS	Tuesday 3/3 and Wednesday 3/4	4:30-7:30pm
Grissom MS	Monday 3/9 and Tuesday 3/10	4:30-7:30pm

**Call** - no internet access? No problem. Schedule your appointment by calling  
**Elisa Gouker, PHS Fine Arts Secretary, 574-258-9515**

Families **without an appointment** will be added to the Instrument Selection Night schedule as time allows.

## 2. Meet with the SELECTION NIGHT hosts to select an instrument

Plan to try 3-4 instruments. Your host and instrument specialists will work with you to find an instrument that your child will enjoy both musically and successfully. Your visit will probably take 30-60 minutes.

Students **interested in percussion** will be evaluated at each selection night. Each percussion candidate needs to have a second instrument choice. **Percussion slots will be filled** by the band directors **after the final selection night – so it does not matter which night you attend.**

## 3. SIGN UP for BEGINNER INSTRUMENT SUMMER Classes

**July 20 - August 7 at Penn High School**

**Summer classes are free** and meet 60 minutes daily for three weeks (15 sessions). Some classes fill up early so sign-up for your choice at selection night. If your child cannot attend you must arrange for private lessons at your own expense. Information on private lesson teachers will be available at selection night.

Transportation is not provided however you can sign-up for carpooling opportunities at Selection Night.

Beginner instruction is provided only during the summer beginner classes, not when school starts in August.

## 4. Obtain your INSTRUMENT

Each student must have an instrument in good playing condition. Quinlan & Fabish Music Company representatives are available to help you at selection night or you may obtain an instrument from another vendor. Reputable music stores sell and service quality instruments. PLEASE use caution if you deal with a vendor other than Quinlan & Fabish Music Company. (What is your recourse if the instrument needs repair or is not playable? What is the return policy? Reputable music vendors will not repair poor quality instruments, as they cannot guarantee their workmanship.)

If your family has serious financial concerns, ask us about instruments available from the PHM Foundation.

## 5. REGISTER for Band or Orchestra with your middle school

You may have done this already, if not contact your school. Place Band or Orchestra for your 6th grade schedule music choice.

## 6. ATTEND your Beginner Instrument Summer Class

In early July you will receive a mailed reminder about your summer class time and room assignment for the July 20 - August 7 Beginner Instrument Class at Penn High School. Students **MUST** attend summer classes OR obtain private instruction **PRIOR** to the start of school. *\*If you know your child must miss the first 3 days of class or five or more total days, please arrange for private instruction so that your child can keep up with the class.*

A list of approved private instructors will be available at Selection Night.

**PHM Summer classes are free. Private lessons would be at the parent's expense.**

**If the following information does not answer all of your questions, please contact:**

**Mrs. Anne Tschetter**  
**[atschetter@phm.k12.in.us](mailto:atschetter@phm.k12.in.us)**  
**574-258-9517**

## **Sample instrument FOUR MONTH Introductory rental program costs:**

	<b>4-Month</b>	<b>per month after trial period</b>
Violin, Viola	\$69.00	\$25.00
Cello	\$99.00	\$35.00
String Bass	\$156.00	\$59.00
Wood Clarinet (preferred by PHM!) Alto Saxophone, Oboe	\$119.00	\$53.00
Flute, Clarinet*, Trumpet, Trombone *Resonite, not wood	\$72.00	\$39.00
French Horn in F, Baritone	\$149.00	\$63.00

Trial fees and monthly payments include optional Maintenance & Replacement Coverage which covers the instruments for all repairs (regardless of frequency) and replacement if lost, stolen, or damaged beyond repair. Free pick-up & delivery to your school on a regularly scheduled basis.

### **We recommend the following instrument brands:**

Armstrong, Artley, Bach, Conn, Emerson, Glaesel, Holton, King, Leblanc, Yamaha, Ludwig, Scherl & Roth, Knilling, Eastman, Selmer, Signet, and Vito!

***This is very important as there are many brands available at lower prices, however many of these lower priced instruments fail easily and are not repairable due to the quality of their construction. This scenario has often caused an even greater expense for many of our parents.***

Percussionist will need sticks, a drum pad and stand, and a student model xylophone/marimba. Information on these instruments will be available at selection night.

**Instruction book for most instruments is \$8.99. Music stand is \$15.90**

Quinlan & Fabish Music Company representatives will be present for your convenience. However, instruments may be purchased or rented at any place of your choice. We strongly encourage you to rent/buy recommended brands (above) and will have information for you on appropriate equipment, mouthpieces, etc.

**We encourage you to be a careful consumer.** If you find a price that seems too good to be true – it probably is! Inquire about repair services, loaner instrument availability during repair, and warranty. Each year a few students bring instruments that are not playable. Make sure your child has equipment that will work.

## **Interested in Percussion? Please read this important information!**

Percussion is a popular choice and is an important section in the band. There are a limited number of percussion parts in band music so it's important that each band class has a manageable number of players (too many players will result in bored students waiting for their turn to participate).

Percussionists learn to play a wide range of instruments including snare drum, bass drum, timpani, cymbals, as well as mallet percussion like xylophone and marimba.

### **How will percussion students be selected?**

You **MUST** attend one of the Selection Nights. All percussion candidates will be evaluated at Selection Night. One member of our instrumental music faculty will be present at each of the nights and will therefore be able to compare all candidates. There is no benefit or penalty to being one of the first or last candidates to be heard!

All percussion candidates must list a second choice in case they are not selected for a percussion spot. Should someone selected for a percussion spot withdraw, we will insert the next student on our reserve list.

### **What equipment do I need?**

Beginning Percussionists will need the following equipment:

- Xylophone
- Practice Pad
- Snare Drum Sticks
- Keyboard Mallets
- Timpani Mallets
- Stick Bag
- Book