

**Manchester School District
Music Department**

September 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Classes are currently being organized in the elementary schools for the Beginning Instrumental Program. An instrumental demonstration has been given at your student's elementary school to introduce students to the various instruments available in the program. The instruments shown are all members of the **brass, woodwind, and mallet/percussion** families. By bringing you this form, your child has expressed an interest in learning to play one of these instruments.

The Beginning Instrumental Program is available to all **fifth** grade students in the Manchester School District. The lessons are provided free of charge, in once a week, thirty minute sessions. The program continues into the middle and high schools, at which point students become members of the school band.

To participate in this program your child is required to have her/his own instrument. Instruments may be rented at any one of several music stores located in the Manchester area. Once in the program, students are also required to remain in good academic standing. Classes will start the **last** week of October.

If interested, please return the bottom portion of this form to school no later than **Friday, October 9, 2009**. Shortly thereafter, students will receive information regarding the exact day and time of their lesson.

The quality of music produced in the Manchester School District is outstanding! Please take advantage of this opportunity to enhance your child's education by becoming part of our music program.

Additional copies of this form are available at www.mansd.org. Click on Departments, followed by Fine Arts.

Your band director will be **Ms. Gagnon – 628-6223**

Sincerely,

Christine D. Martin
Manchester School District
624-6300 ext. 203
cmartin@mansd.org

Student's Name _____ Parent/Guardian's Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Parent/Guardian email _____

School _____ Classroom Teacher _____

What instrument will you be studying? _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: I have played _____ for _____ year(s).
(instrument)

Parent/Guardian's signature _____

**Manchester School District
Beginning Instrumental Program Contract**

To all parents, guardians, and students:

When a child is accepted into the instrumental program, she/he must understand and agree to the following rules:

Students will...

- a. Remain in the class until the end of the year, unless the instructor recommends otherwise.
- b. Practice every day for at least 15 minutes.
- c. Come to lessons regularly and promptly.
- d. Remember to bring an instrument and music book on the day that lessons are scheduled.
- e. Maintain their instrument in good playing condition, which includes having items necessary for their specific instrument such as reeds, valve oil, etc.
- f. Participate in all rehearsals and concerts of the citywide Manchester School District Band.
- g. Participate in all concerts held at their respective school.
- h. Maintain good grades in classroom schoolwork and makeup all work missed due to lessons.

Students who forget their instruments or forget to come to class twice are given a warning. If a third infraction occurs, the student may be dismissed from the program.

Students: I understand all that is required of me and agree to the rules listed above. I also understand that the decision to play a musical instrument is a serious commitment that will require hard work, consistent practice habits, and dedication in order to succeed.

Student's Name (please print) _____

Student's Signature _____

Parents/Guardians: I understand that the success of my child in learning a musical instrument depends a great deal on my encouragement and support, and I will do all that I can to insure that success.

Parent's Signature _____

Frequently asked questions about the Beginning Instrumental Program

- When does instruction start?** Instruction starts the **last** week of October and continues until the end of the school year.
- What is the cost of instruction?** There is no charge for school lessons.
- Who can start lessons?** Any child in the fifth grade may start lessons. Children are encouraged to play an instrument they have a strong desire to play.
- What is the trial period?** All children without prior experience start on a four-month trial basis, which is divided into two, eight-week periods. At the end of each period a progress report is sent to each parent. The purpose of the trial period is to give students the opportunity to discontinue before a large investment in time and money is expended.
- When do classes meet?** Classes meet once a week during the school day.
- What about class attendance?** Students are responsible for attending weekly lessons. Two or more unexcused absences may be considered a lack of interest on the part of the student, resulting in possible removal from the program.
- What about the instrument?** Parents and guardians are responsible for securing the instrument. We suggest the instrument be rented for the four month period rather than purchased.
- What lesson book do I need to purchase?** Please purchase the **Standard of Excellence** "Red Book" 1 for the instrument you will be studying.
- Where can instruments be secured?** Choose a reputable music dealer who rents quality instruments.
- How long do lessons continue?** Lessons continue until the end of fifth grade. Students will then join the middle school band and subsequently the high school band.
- When should private lessons begin?** Private instruction (outside of school) is very helpful and recommended. Band teachers may be able to recommend qualified private instructors.

**Manchester School District
Percussionist Contract**

To all parents, guardians, and students:

When a child is accepted into the instrumental program as a mallet/percussion student, she/he must understand and agree to the rules listed below. They must also understand they will be required to audition during the month of June to determine their eligibility for placement into the limited spaces available in the percussion section of our middle school bands.

Students will...

- a. Remain in the class until the end of the school year, unless the instructor recommends otherwise.
- b. Practice every day for at least 15 minutes.
- c. Come to lessons regularly and promptly.
- d. Remember to bring your instrument and music book on the day that lessons are scheduled.
- e. Maintain their instrument in good playing condition, which includes having items necessary for their specific instrument such as reeds, valve oil, etc.
- f. Participate in all rehearsals and concerts of the city-wide Manchester School District Band.
- g. Participate in all concerts held at their respective school.
- h. Maintain good grades in classroom schoolwork and makeup all work missed due to lessons.
- i. Be prepared to audition in June for placement into the limited spaces available in the percussion section of our middle school bands.

Students who forget their instruments or forget to come to class twice are given a warning. If a third infraction occurs, the student may be dismissed from the program.

Students: I understand all that is required of me and agree to the rules listed above. I also understand that the decision to play a musical instrument is a serious commitment that will require hard work, consistent practice habits, and dedication in order to succeed.

Student's Name (please print)_____

Student's Signature_____

Parents/Guardians: I understand that the success of my child in learning a musical instrument depends a great deal on my encouragement and support, and I will do all that I can to insure that success.

Parent's Signature_____