

To: All Parents and Guardians of M.S. students and all 4th grade students
From: Middle School Music Staff

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Welcome to middle school! We at the music department would like to take this opportunity to invite your student to **get involved with music!** Middle school can be a challenging time for students. Participating in co-curricular classes such as band and chorus can increase a student's enjoyment of school; as well as give them self-esteem, pride, and new friends. **A research team exploring the link between music and intelligence reports that music training is able to drastically enhance children's abstract reasoning skills necessary for learning math and science.** Other research shows that middle school and high school students who participate in instrumental music scored significantly higher than their non-band peers in standardized tests. University studies conducted in Georgia and Texas found significant correlations between the number of years of music instruction and academic achievement in math, science, and language arts.

If your child was involved in our music program before, then they already know what a great experience chorus and band can be! If they are new to the middle school or want to get involved this year for the first time, they are welcome to join the band or the chorus. **Students are permitted to participate in BOTH band and chorus.** Students attend class during at least one enrichment period a week and during at least one ELO (Extended Learning Opportunities) class per week. **Students will not be pulled from any other classes for band or chorus** unless special performance opportunities present themselves.

Band and Chorus are graded classes that perform during the regular school year. The attached form states that you, as your child's caregiver, understand the commitment involved with band and chorus and give your child permission to enroll in the class. **Once your child signs up for band or chorus we ask that they participate in the program for the entire school year.**

If starting a new instrument, extra instruction is available. If your child does not own an instrument there are a number of school-owned instruments for student use. Please state on your form if you will need a school instrument. There are also local companies that have instrument rental plans. Please call Spott's Music Center at 371-5666.

If you have any questions regarding the music programs at DAMS, please feel free to contact either of us at your convenience. Thank you for your time and consideration.

5-8 grade Band	Joe Sensor, jsensor@dasd.k12.pa.us
5th grade Chorus	Kristina Keith, kkeith@dasd.k12.pa.us
6-8 grade Chorus	Becky Sensor, rsensor@dasd.k12.pa.us

Join us on FaceBook! DuBois Area Music Parents Association