



# MUSIC

at Issaquah Middle School



“Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything.” -Plato



Music at Issaquah Middle School is a great way to get involved, meet friends and learn a new skill. Whether you choose to join band, orchestra or choir, no prior music experience is required. A positive attitude is all that is needed for music classes. All music courses are a full year length and, after completing a music class in their 6<sup>th</sup> grade year, students are encouraged to continue to advance in their chosen course of music. Evening school performances occur in each trimester and concert attendance is required for all music classes. An instrument in good working order is required of students in Band and Orchestra. Almost all of the time an instrument can be rented from the school or a local music store. Lastly, all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade music students (band, orchestra and choir) perform in the Music in the Parks Festival at Silverwood Theme Park in Coeur ‘d Alene, Idaho.



On the back of this handout your will find more detailed information about band, orchestra and choir at Issaquah Middle School. Additionally, you can visit each of the teacher’s websites at the following addresses:

**Band** - [www.issaquahband.com](http://www.issaquahband.com)

**Orchestra** - [www.swiftclassroom.com/ims/orchestra](http://www.swiftclassroom.com/ims/orchestra)

**Chorus** - [www.swiftclassroom.com/ims/leek](http://www.swiftclassroom.com/ims/leek)

A research team studying first graders from two Rhode Island elementary schools found that students who participated in an “enriched, sequential, skill building music program” dramatically increased their reading and math performance.

- From Nature May 23, 1996; Gardener, Fox, Jeffery and Knowles

A 2000 Gallup survey commissioned by NAMM – International Music Products Association on “American’s Attitudes Toward Music, Music Making, and Music Education” revealed very important information. The following responses are representative of the Gallup survey:

**92%** agree that playing a musical instrument helps children make friends.

**73%** believe teenagers who play an instrument are less likely to have discipline problems.

**97%** agree that playing a musical instrument is a good means of self-expression.

**81%** agree participation in a school music program often corresponds to better grades and test scores.

## Choir

**6th Grade Chorus** is a class for students who love to sing. Students learn to sing in 2 parts and by the end of the year advance to some 3 part singing. Students will study a wide variety of choral literature (including pop, jazz, blues, folk, multi-cultural, and classical) and students are also eligible to participate in the Eastshore Solo/Ensemble Festival.

**7th/8th Grade Chorus** is the next step after 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus where students will learn to sing in 4 parts. Students in this chorus class will also study a wide variety of choral literature (including pop, jazz, blues, folk, multi-cultural, and classical) and will perform for the Eastshore League's Choral Festival in the spring. 7th and 8th grade Chorus students may also audition to sing in Crystal Voices (see description below).

**Crystal Voices** is an advanced choir selected by audition. This group specializes in a cappella singing and performs for special events throughout the community. Members must be in 7th/8th Grade Chorus. Crystal Voices provides an opportunity for advanced singers to excel.

## Band

**Beginning Band** is offered to students who are interested in learning a band instrument such as flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, french horn, trombone, tuba and percussion. This class is group-focused while teaching proper individual technique to students on their instrument of choice. Students will study a variety of music ranging from "classical" to pop.

**Intermediate Band** is for students who have completed Beginning Band or any IMS student with prior experience playing a traditional band instrument. The majority of students in this class will be in the 7th grade. The focus of this class will be on more advanced elements of reading music, continued proper playing techniques, as well as well as introducing more advanced concert literature.

**Concert Band** is for students who have completed both Beginning Band and Intermediate Band or who have significant prior experience on their instrument. The majority of students in this class will be in the 8th grade. Focus is placed on advanced instrumental techniques as well as preparing the students to play advanced concert band literature. The Concert Band will also perform at the Eastshore Region Music Festival in the spring.

**Jazz Band** is a group that meets once a week, after school, for students to learn to play jazz. This group is open to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who are currently enrolled in Intermediate or Concert Band. The Jazz Band performs at IMS Band concerts and other events throughout the school year.

## Orchestra

**Beginning Orchestra** is offered to students who are interested in learning an orchestra instrument such as violin, viola, cello or string bass. This class is a group-focused class while teaching the individual proper technique on their instrument of choice. Students will study a variety of music ranging from "classical" to pop.

**Intermediate Orchestra** is for students who have completed Beginning Orchestra or any IMS student with prior experience playing a string instrument. The majority of students in this class will be in the 7th grade. The focus of this class will be on more advanced elements of reading music, continued proper playing techniques, as well as well as introducing more advanced concert literature.

**Chamber Orchestra** is for students who have completed both Beginning Orchestra and Intermediate Orchestra or who have significant prior experience on their instrument. The majority of students in this class will be in the 8th grade. Focus is placed on advanced instrumental techniques as well as preparing the students to play advanced orchestra literature. The Chamber Orchestra will also perform at the Eastshore Region Music Festival in the spring.

**Fiddler's Philharmonic** is a group that meets once a week, after school, for students to play fiddle music. This group is open to 7th and 8th grade students who are currently enrolled in Intermediate or Chamber Orchestra. The Fiddler's Philharmonic performs at various events on and off campus throughout the school year.