

March 2, 2010

Dear parents of MCDS 4th graders:

In preparation for the 2010-2011 academic school year, the MCDS MS/HS Music Department recently completed demonstrations of musical instruments for all 4th grade students during their regular music classes.

These demonstrations aim to inform students of the many diverse instruments and musical ensembles that MCDS offers to both middle and high school students.

As an incoming 5th grader, your child will be required to take one weekly class period of choir. In addition to this, the student is required to be in another weekly class period of a performing ensemble, either 5th-6th grade Beginning Band, 5th-6th grade Orchestra, or an additional segment of choir if the student is not learning a new instrument, or has no interest in one of the other ensembles. For your information, once a student enters the 5th grade, they are no longer required to take piano lessons.

Instruments demonstrated:

Piano (typically played in band)	Flute (band or orchestra)	Clarinet (band or orchestra)
Oboe (orchestra)	Bassoon (orchestra)	Voice (choir)
Violin (orchestra)	Viola (orchestra)	Cello (orchestra)
Saxophone (band)	Trumpet (band)	Trombone (band)
Guitar (band)	Drums/Percussion (band)	

Things to consider:

- An additional demonstration will be held in April of 2010 to further reinforce choices and help with any questions.
- Once this second round of demonstrations takes place, instrument choice and ensemble choice forms for 2010-2011 will be sent out shortly thereafter.
Once a new instrument is chosen, the student also is expected to take a weekly private lesson and will be playing in an ensemble appropriate for the instrument (i.e. saxophone, trumpet, piano players in band; violin, viola, cello players in orchestra).
- After choosing an instrument, families are encouraged to rent instruments before the new school year begins. Families who choose strings, woodwinds, or brass will be responsible for rental or purchase of an instrument. Monthly rental fees (excluding taxes) for these instruments range for \$16-\$25 for violin, viola, flute, and clarinet and \$28-\$35 for cello. Instruments that MCDS currently owns will also be available for rent at a similar cost.
- In early August of 2010, MCDS will be again hosting a "Summer Music Camp" for incoming instrumentalists who are eager to get started.

If you have preliminary questions regarding this topic, please feel free to contact any member of the MCDS music department. Thank you!

MCDS Music Department

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