

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 Summer Beginner Instrument Classes
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 2/22 and Tuesday 2/23
Schmucker Middle School	Tuesday 2/28 and Wednesday 3/1
Grissom Middle School	Monday 3/14 and Tuesday 3/15

*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. **SCHEDULE your appointment for Instrument Selection Night (ISN)**

**Online** (preferred) <https://sites.google.com/phm.k12.in.us/phmish/home>

- or PHM link*
- 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**

**Or Call** - no internet access? No problem. Schedule your appointment by calling:  
**Rachelle Morris, PHS Fine Arts Secretary, 574-258-9515**

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

***Appointments are required as we are not able to accommodate walk-ins due to COVID protocols.***

Please use full contact information for US Postal mailing addresses, email addresses, and phone numbers for all parent/guardians. We need full and correct information to contact you with:

- *Scheduling student into 6th Band and Orchestra classes*
- *Schedule your child for Summer Beginner Instrument Classes: July 18 - August 5*
- *Set Up Carpool information for Summer Beginner Instrument Classes*

## 2. **ATTEND INSTRUMENT SELECTION NIGHT 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.**

Most families will decide at ISN which band or orchestra instrument to play. If you are undecided the evening of ISN that is OK to not declare your instrument choice immediately. However please note the **some instrument section close due to filling up quickly**, so later decisions might keep your child from an instrument choice because that section is closed.

## 3. **SIGN-UP for SUMMER BEGINNER INSTRUMENT CLASSES**

**July 18 - August 5 at Penn High School**

**Summer Beginner Instrument Classes are held at Penn High School** and are **free**. Classes meet 60 minutes daily for three weeks (15 sessions). Sign-up for your choice of class time at Instrument Selection Night. Classes are scheduled at 8am, 9am, 10am and/or 11am only, dependent on the instrument. 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 or by contacting the middle school band or orchestra directors.

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, Method Book, Music Stand**

Rent or purchase. 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.) Q&F can help you with purchase of the Method Book and Music Stand. If your family has serious financial concerns, ask us about instruments available from the PHM Foundation.

## **5. REGISTER for Band/Orchestra 6th grade Course at 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 Summer Beginner Instrument Classes**

In late May you will receive a UP Postal mailed reminder about your summer class which includes the class time, room assignment, and instructor for the July 18 - August 5 Summer Beginner Instrument Classes 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 are at the parent's expense.**

**If you do not receive the summer class US Postal mailing by June 7 or have questions, please contact:**

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

### **Discovery, Grissom, and Schmucker Middle Schools Bands and Orchestras**

The PHM middle school music choices of Band, Orchestra, and Choir meet as curricular classes within the regular school day. More than two-thirds of all PHM middle school students participate in one of these three courses. In these programs students usually perform 3-4 concerts per year as well as the opportunity to participate in the annual solo and ensemble contest.

- *The middle school band and orchestra schedules do not conflict with other after or before school activities.*
- *Band and orchestra members can participate in ANY other sport or activity while in middle school.*

#### **PHM Middle School Band and Orchestra Directors**

##### **Discovery**

Band: Mr. Murray Weaver [mweaver@phm.k12.in.us](mailto:mweaver@phm.k12.in.us) Orchestra: Mrs. April Oppenheim [eoppenheim@phm.k12.in.us](mailto:eoppenheim@phm.k12.in.us)

##### **Grissom**

Band: Heather Baker [hbaker@phm.k12.in.us](mailto:hbaker@phm.k12.in.us) Orchestra: Ms. Vickie Marshall [vmarshall@phm.k12.in.us](mailto:vmarshall@phm.k12.in.us)

##### **Schmucker**

Band: Mr. Jeff Carnall [jcarnall@phm.k12.in.us](mailto:jcarnall@phm.k12.in.us) Orchestra: Mrs. Dodi Carnall [dcarnall@phm.k12.in.us](mailto:dcarnall@phm.k12.in.us)  
Band: Ms. Kristin Hills [khills@phm.k12.in.us](mailto:khills@phm.k12.in.us)

### **Your Middle School Student's Music Future at Penn High School**

Band	Concert Bands - 5 concert bands; student placement is by ability level Marching Band - involves an extensive late summer and fall rehearsal schedule, completely voluntary Jazz Ensembles - 3 jazz ensembles, 2 are curricular and 1 meets after school Basketball Pep Band - Extra-Curricular group that plays for home games
Orchestra	String Orchestras - 5 string orchestras; student placement is by ability level Full Orchestra - Top string orchestra combines with top band members to play symphonic music Pit Orchestra - Orchestra and Band members combine as pit ensemble for musical productions

*Students in our Bands and Orchestras participate in every sport, activity, and extra-curricular club in our schools.  
Participation in instrumental music does not limit a student's involvement in other school sports or activities.*

## 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!)	\$119.00	\$53.00
Alto Saxophone, Oboe		
Flute, Clarinet*, Trumpet, Trombone	\$72.00	\$39.00
*Resonite, not wood		
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 percussionists need?**

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