

Eastern Middle School
Music Programs
Frequently Asked Questions

1. Q: Can my student take music classes and be in the Humanities and Communication Magnet Program?

A: Absolutely! Eastern offers several options for students in the magnet program to take band, orchestra, or chorus.

2. Q: My child wants to take Literature in the Humanities or one of the world languages as her elective. Is there any way she can still take music classes?

A: We recognize that many students are not able to fit instrumental or choral music into their schedule, particularly in 6th grade. In order to accommodate these students, Eastern offers an after-school band class for students who play band instruments. This class, for which students receive a grade, is held after school (3:00-4:15 p.m.) Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday when the activity buses run.

We also offer several clubs for students with an interest in music. Orchestra club is held Fridays from 3:00-3:40 p.m. Jazz ensemble meets Friday mornings from 7:30-8:00 a.m. Chorus club is currently offered one afternoon a week when activity buses run. Students participating in these clubs do not receive a grade. Transportation is not provided for the Friday orchestra or jazz club participants.

3. Q: What level of ability does my student need to be at to take instrumental music?

A: Instrumental and choral music are offered at levels ranging from beginner to advanced. Practice at home is crucial to success and a private teacher is highly recommended.

Students in the Friday morning jazz ensemble must be able to read music and pass an audition.

4. Q: What instruments are in afterschool band, orchestra club, and jazz ensemble?

A: Afterschool band includes woodwinds (flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, and saxophone); brass (trumpet, trombone, baritone, French horn, and tuba); and percussion (drums, xylophone, and marimba).

Orchestra Club includes strings (violin, viola, cello, and double bass).

Jazz Ensemble includes any instrument from band plus drumset, piano, and double bass/ bass guitar.

5. Q: Does the school have instruments my student can use?

A: The school provides larger instruments for use at school, including tubas, basses, cellos, baritones, and percussion. We do have some smaller instruments, but we recommend students purchase, rent, or borrow their own instruments.

6. Q: Do students get a chance to perform?

A: We have several concerts, festivals, and performances throughout the year.

7. Q: What if my child finds the extra class or club too overwhelming?

A: Mr. Puckett works with students who are feeling stressed or overwhelmed. Students are permitted to withdraw from the afterschool band class or from any of the clubs.

If you have further questions, please email the instrumental music and chorus teachers:

Instrumental Music: Mr. Dan Puckett Jonathan_D_Puckett@mcpsmd.org

Chorus: Ms. Brittany Shatuck Brittany_A_Shatuck@mcpsmd.org