

## WHY MUSIC?

### What kind of music do you like?

Everyone has a favorite kind of music. **Music connects with everyone on the deepest level.** Through the study of music, students can evolve to a place where, more than just "liking" or "enjoying" listening to music, they are interpreting, analyzing, expressing themselves, and connecting with their peers through **MAKING** music!

### Music is Universal!



LBJ Chorus

## WHY NOW?

### Why join the music department at JMS?

Participation in L.B. Johnson Middle School's award winning music department is a wonderful way to make the transition from elementary to middle school. Johnson has four outstanding teachers who consistently achieve superior performances in the areas of chorus, band, and orchestra.

## What are the benefits?

**Students benefit from being involved in music classes in many ways:**

### Academically

Students who actively participate in music



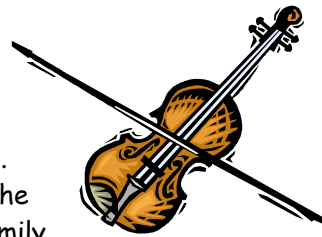
education show improved test scores in reading and math.

Music students are engaged daily in reading of notation and lyrics, and they use music vocabulary for interpreting the scores. These music-reading skills help develop and reinforce the text-reading skills of tracking, fluency, and vocabulary. Students also participate in the counting of notation and must become fluent in the duration of notes and rests in music class. Because of this, in many ways, music IS math. Students develop their understanding of symbol interpretation, fractions, and pattern recognition through reading and interpreting musical symbols. In addition, music students study historical periods and world music for large groups and small ensembles or soloists. They explore the science of sound as well.

### Music is Academic!

### Socially

Students at the middle school level strongly desire to be a part of a group. In the music classes, the students become a "family unit" through working together to create outstanding performances. Music classes teach mutual respect, constructive criticism, and the skill of PERFORMANCE. These skills can carry over to other areas of a student's life; students will have increased confidence, self-assurance, and self-esteem in their interaction with other students and adults as a result of their participation in music. We see our students develop strong friendships and mutual respect through their involvement with music. Students learn to use their talents to the best of their ability; thus, giving them confidence to try new things.



## Music creates connections! Physically

Music students increase fine motor skills and dexterity in instrumental classes while using gross motor skills in choreography in vocal classes. Performing and moving in a non-traditional ways in their music class gives students a chance to express themselves! Many students find their music class to be a physical "release" during the school day. The work music students do is hands-on and active. Students don't sit in desks and work with paper and pencil in music class; music students move, play, sing, dance, perform, and create in an energetic way.

### Music is Fun!



LBJ Band

### Emotionally

Expression of one's opinions and feelings is an important developmental phase for the middle school student. The music class is the perfect place to encourage creativity and allow emotional freedom. Music creates a wide variety of emotional responses in people. A beautiful song can bring tears to your eyes, a Latin beat can make you want to get up and dance, and a comical music-theater sketch can make you laugh! Music classes create an environment where students not only feel these emotions, but they explore them and create them! Creative freedom allows students to feel powerful emotionally. Students love to come to school and participate in a

positive manner when they know their ideas and feelings are respected and valued. **Music has Heart!**

**HOW CAN I BE SURE TO GET MY MUSIC CLASS?**

Students have several options available so they can continue their music studies. The chart below explains your scheduling options for 7<sup>th</sup> grade:

PERIOD	OPTION ONE		OPTION TWO
1	English		English
2	Math		Math
3	Social Studies		Social Studies
4	Science		Science
5	PE (waivers available)		PE (waivers available)
6	Career Explorer	Elective	Elective**
7	MUSIC		MUSIC

*\*\*If you take the 3-week Career Explorer summer school course, you can create another year-long elective during 7<sup>th</sup> grade (option 2)! PE Waivers can create even more options for music and other electives. Contact the Johnson Middle School Guidance Department if you have questions about these options.*

**It's for life!**

Whereas some classes are for a semester or a year, music is for life! Many students who get involved

in music at the middle school level continue on at the high school level and take those skills with them into adulthood.

Participating in music is a great way to get ready for music in the high school, where one year of fine arts credit is a graduation requirement.

Music is fun, and it provides students with opportunities to travel, perform, and show off their talents and abilities like no other subject area! **Music students are the best students in the school;** these students grow in self-discipline, self-esteem, work ethic, and responsibility as a result of their commitment to the group, and they discover the joy of performance and self-expression in the process!!!

Remember---  
**NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED!!!**

**You don't have to have any experience in music** or performance to be a part of the JMS music department. We will teach you everything you need to know! EVERYONE can make music... everyone can sing or play an instrument... let us show you how!!!!

**WHAT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?**

If you have questions or concerns regarding musical opportunities for your student, please contact the music teachers at Johnson Middle School. We would be very happy to work with you in making music instruction a viable option for your child.

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**CHOOSE MUSIC!**



**L.B. Johnson Middle School  
Music Department**

A State Music Demonstration School