



HOPKINS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC DEPARTMENT

600 Driscoll Road, Fremont, CA 94539 – (510) 656-3500, ext. 38023

May, 2017

Dear Third, Fourth, and Fifth Grade Parents,

Hello from the Hopkins Jr. High School Music Department! As the Director of Instrumental Music at Hopkins, I would like to invite you and your students to join or continue in the **Elementary Band and Orchestra Programs** for the school year **2017-2018!** All incoming 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students in the Mission Attendance Area have the great opportunity to learn music through one or both of these programs, and to eventually play in one of the award-winning ensembles at Hopkins!

There are many, many benefits to taking music classes in Elementary, Junior High, and High School. These benefits can help a student succeed in many different ways. For example, **colleges and universities specifically look for music classes on a high school transcript during the admissions process.** I have put together a partial list of these benefits supported by some of the studies and research that have been conducted about music and arts education, as well as a list of what colleges and universities say about music education in school.

Here is a sample of the general benefits of music education:

- Did you know that students in “top quality” instrumental music programs at school score on average **22% better in English** and **20% better in Math** on standardized tests (such as STAR) than students not enrolled in music classes? This is true for both low-performing schools and very high-performing schools (according to a study conducted by the University of Kansas).
- Did you know that students in music classes in school tend to have **higher scores on the SAT?** This has been shown in numerous studies dating back to the 1990s. In the most recent report from The College Board (administrator of the SAT), students in music classes scored on average **57 points higher on the verbal portion** and **43 points higher on the Math portion** of the test compared with students not in music classes.
- Did you know that colleges and universities specifically look for music classes on high school transcripts when processing applications? Colleges and universities value music classes very highly because they are the only classes that by themselves show the development of a student’s skills in many areas---group work, multi-tasking, spatial reasoning, mathematics, leadership, community spirit, and others. **This is especially true now with the changes in testing requirements for UC’s and other universities!**

Here are the benefits of taking music specifically at Hopkins:

- Did you know that Hopkins has one of the **strongest, largest, and highest quality instrumental music programs in the Bay Area and in California?** The band program has been one of the best, consistently achieving the highest possible ratings at festivals since the mid-1980s. In each of the last 9 years, the Hopkins Bands received the highest rating of “Superior” at the CMEA Band Festival. The Hopkins Wind Ensemble (the highest level of band) was **one of only two middle school bands selected to perform at the prestigious California Music Educators Association State Conference in 2010.** The Orchestra program, although relatively new, has already achieved a very strong reputation. The Hopkins Advanced Orchestra is considered **“the best middle school string orchestra” in California,** and continues to be among the best in the entire country---it received a unanimous “Perfect” score of 100 at the Music in the Parks Festival in Anaheim in 2010, 2012, 2013 & 2014, and was a featured performer at California All-State Music Education Conference in 2012 & 2017! In each year since 2007, both Orchestras of Hopkins received “Unanimous Superior” (the highest possible) ratings at the CMEA Orchestra Festival. **Almost all of these students participated in the After-School Bands or Orchestras during their elementary school years.**

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- Did you know that **most of the top academic students at Hopkins participate in the instrumental music program**? The winners of the Hopkins Geography Bee and the Hopkins Spelling Bee almost every year have been music students. In 2009, four of the five members of the Hopkins Science Bowl team that took 1st Place in a nationwide competition in Washington D.C. were enrolled in music classes at Hopkins. Also, a large majority of students taking the Advanced (Honors) Science and Advanced Math classes at Hopkins and Mission San Jose HS are instrumental music students!

Elementary students in the Mission Attendance Area (i.e. Chadbourne, Gomes, Mission Valley, and Mission San Jose) are very fortunate to have several options for studying music:

BANDS:

BAND INSTRUMENTS INCLUDE ALL WOODWINDS (Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Saxophone), BRASS (Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Baritone), and PERCUSSION.

- The *Beginning Elementary Band* program run by the Fremont Education Foundation offers classes at each elementary school site for students with **no band instrument experience**. These classes meet **after school once per week**, and are offered at no cost to the student (except for a suggested donation amount).
- **NEW THIS YEAR:** The *Intermediate Elementary Band* will be run by the Hopkins JHS Music Department. This class is designed for students who are **4th or 5th graders** and have been playing their band instrument for **at least one year**. There is a one-time registration donation for this class that covers the entire school year. Meetings for this class are held **once per week at Hopkins**. More details may be found on the following pages.
- The *Advanced Elementary Band* is also run by the Hopkins Music Department and is taught by **Mr. Greg Conway**, the Director of Instrumental Music at Hopkins. This class is designed for students who are **6th graders** and have been playing their band instrument for **at least one year** (along with 5th graders who have 2+ years' experience or have completed the "Intermediate" class). There is a one-time registration donation for this class that covers the entire school year. Meetings for this class are held **once per week at Hopkins in the early evening** (to avoid conflicts with after-school sports). More details may be found on the following pages.

STRING ORCHESTRAS:

ORCHESTRA INSTRUMENTS INCLUDE VIOLIN, VIOLA, CELLO, and STRING BASS.

- Run by Hopkins Music Department, the *Elementary String Orchestra* program offers *Beginning* (no experience), *Intermediate* (one or more years' experience), and *Advanced* (2+ years' experience) level classes that **meet at Hopkins once per week after school**. These classes require a one-time registration donation to cover the entire school year. More details may be found on the following pages.

In this packet, you will find detailed information about the music program, including the importance of music education, Frequently Asked Questions about music classes, the sequence of music classes for band and orchestra, and specific class descriptions. Once you have read through the packet, make sure that you fill out the correct form(s) and return them to me by **August 1st**.

Do visit the Hopkins Music Department website at www.musicathopkins.com to find out more. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at any time, preferably through e-mail. I do look forward to working with many of you and your students in the coming years!

Musically,

Mr. Gregory Conway
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 Hopkins Jr. High School
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WHAT IS BAND? WHAT IS ORCHESTRA?

Often the most common question asked by parents is the difference between “Band” and “Orchestra”. Both are “performance-based large group music classes”, but there are differences. This handout will explain these differences.

BAND

Band classes are made up of “Wind” and “Percussion” instruments (see instrument list below). Elementary band classes are held at the Beginning level **at each elementary school**. There is an Intermediate & an Advanced Elementary Band class held **at Hopkins JHS**.

Instruments in “Band”:

Flute, **Oboe**, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, **Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Baritone**, Tuba, Percussion
(*Instruments in **bold** are in high demand at Hopkins JHS/Mission San Jose HS.*)

Band Classes Offered in Mission San Jose HS Attendance Area:

Beginning Elementary Band
Intermediate Elementary Band
Advanced Elementary Band
Hopkins JHS Beginning Band
Hopkins JHS Concert Band (Intermediate)
Hopkins JHS Symphonic Band (Advanced)
Hopkins JHS Wind Ensemble (Advanced)
Hopkins JHS Jazz Workshop (Intermediate)
Hopkins JHS Jazz Ensemble (Advanced)
Mission San Jose HS Concert Band
Mission San Jose HS Symphonic Band
Mission San Jose HS Wind Ensemble
Mission San Jose HS Marching Band
Mission San Jose HS Jazz Band

ORCHESTRA

Orchestra classes are made up of “String” instruments (see instrument list below). Elementary orchestra classes are held at the Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced levels **at Hopkins JHS**.

Instruments in “Orchestra”:

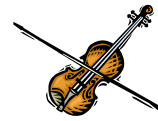
Violin, Viola, Cello, String Bass

Orchestra Classes Offered in Mission San Jose HS Attendance Area:

Beginning Elementary Orchestra
Intermediate Elementary Orchestra
Advanced Elementary Orchestra
Hopkins JHS Intermediate Orchestra
Hopkins JHS Advanced Orchestra
Mission San Jose HS Orchestra

Both programs (Band and Orchestra) at Hopkins JHS are considered to be among the best in California. Band and Orchestra participation is viewed as equally beneficial by colleges and universities, and provide many of the same benefits to student participants. Both require similar amounts of outside-of-class practice and have similar performance commitments at the various levels.

Why Take Music????



There are many, many reasons for taking music classes at school. Here is a partial list of some of the more compelling reasons.

1. The U.S. Department of Education lists the arts as subjects that college-bound middle and junior high school students should take, stating “Many colleges view participation in the arts and music as a valuable experience that broadens students’ understanding and appreciation of the world around them. It is also well known and widely recognized that the arts contribute significantly to children’s intellectual development.”
2. The College Board (administrator of the SAT exam) identifies the arts (including music) as one of the 6 basic academic subject areas students should study in order to succeed in college.
3. According to The College Board in 2006, students with coursework/experience in music performance and music appreciation scored higher on the SAT: students in music performance scored 57 points higher on the verbal and 43 points higher on the math than did students with no music participation.
4. A separate study concluded in 2000 of more than 10 million high school students found that:
 - Students who take arts classes (including music) have higher math, verbal, and composite SAT scores than students who do not take arts classes.
 - As the number of arts classes increases, so do SAT scores.
 - 4 or more years of arts classes correspond to the strongest relationship with higher SAT scores.
 - Music history, theory, and appreciation have the strongest relationship with higher math SAT scores.
5. Students in “top quality” instrumental music programs at school score on average 22% better in English and 20% better in Math on standardized tests (such as STAR) than students not enrolled in music classes! This statistic is true for both low-performing schools and very high-performing schools (according to a study conducted by the University of Kansas in 2007.)
6. Physician and biologist Lewis Thomas studied the undergraduate majors of medical school applicants. He found that 66% of music majors who applied to medical school were admitted, the highest percentage of any group. 44% of biochemistry majors were admitted.
7. In an analysis of U.S. Department of Education data on more than 25,000 secondary school students in 1999, researchers found that students who report consistent high levels of involvement in instrumental music (band and orchestra) over the middle school years show “significantly higher levels of mathematics proficiency by grade 12.” Differences in those who are involved with instrumental music vs. those who are not is more significant over time.
8. According to Grant Venerable, author of “The Paradox of the Silicon Savior”, the “very best engineers and technical designers in the Silicon Valley are, nearly without exception, practicing musicians.”
9. In an 11-year study (1987-1998) on the effects of involvement in youth organizations (arts, athletics, or community-based), compared to the National Educational Longitudinal Sample (a general sampling of students), students involved in arts based groups (including music) were:
 - Over 4 times more likely to participate in community service.
 - 8 times more likely to win a community service award.
 - Nearly twice as likely to read for pleasure.
 - Over 3 times more likely to be elected to a class office in schedule.
 - 3 times more likely to win a school attendance award.
 - 4 times more likely to participate in a math or science fair.
 - Over 4 times more likely to win an award for an essay or poem.
 - 2 times more likely to win an academic achievement award.
 - 4 times more likely to win schoolwide attention for academic achievement.

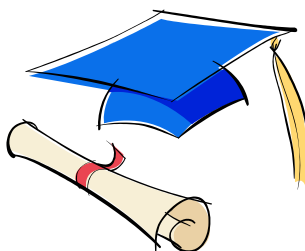
For more stats and figures visit: <http://musiced.nafme.org/resources/why-music-education-2007/>

*Sources: NAfME-The National Association for Music Education “Why Music Education?” 2007
& www.schoolmusicmatters.com*

WHAT DO UNIVERSITIES SAY ABOUT MUSIC?



1. The College Board, the administrator of the SAT Test, identifies the arts (including music) as **one of the 6 areas that students should study** in order to succeed in college.
2. University admissions officers **clearly state** that students who participate in arts classes continually through high school have an advantage over students who do not when applying for high-end schools.
3. **During the admissions process**, colleges and universities look for students who “stand out” and who have something to offer to the campus. Music students who have played for at least 3 years in high school ensembles are **automatically** placed in this category (assuming they have met all other university entrance requirements).
4. **Continuous enrollment in music** is valued by colleges and universities much more highly than extra years of foreign language classes. Students having to choose between music and extra language classes **at the Junior High level** should ***ALWAYS*** choose music according to admissions officers of several universities. Language requirements can be met in high school along with music classes.
5. Playing an instrument well **can help a student get into a university** if they are willing to play in the university’s ensembles. Students do not have to be a music major to take advantage of this. All universities have to have enough musicians on each instrument to feature high-level performing groups. University band and orchestra directors will find a way for a talented student/musician to get into a school.
6. **Having music on a student’s transcript** all through high school shows that a student has developed skills in group work, multi-tasking, spatial reasoning, mathematics, leadership, community spirit, and many other areas. These types of skills cannot be found all together in any other class.



HOPKINS JR. HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC DEPARTMENT
Awards, Honors & Student Accomplishments 2006-2017

BAND PROGRAM

Wind Ensemble

- ✧ “Featured Performer” at California All-State Music Education Conference, March 2010. 1 of only 2 bands invited statewide and the **first** music group from Fremont to ever perform at a State Conference!
- ✧ “Unanimous Superior” (highest possible rating) at CMEA All-State Band/Orchestra Festival, each year 2013 - 2017. Our Wind Ensemble was 1 of only 6 groups in 2017, which included high school groups, from throughout California to achieve this rating—the Hopkins Advanced Orchestra also achieved this top rating!
- ★ ***Symphonic Band/Wind Ensemble*** – 22 “Superior” ratings and “1st Place” awards at Music in the Parks Disneyland Festival (2006-2017)
- ★ ***Concert Band*** – 9 “Superior” ratings and “1st Place” awards at Music in the Parks Great America Festival (2008-2017)
- ★ Hopkins Bands consistently have the highest number of students from any school in Northern California selected for the All-State JHS Honor Band (19 students in 2017)—this is a statewide honor of distinction.
- ★ Hopkins Bands consistently have the highest number of students from any school accepted to the All-Northern California JHS Honor Band (46 students in 2017)—these are among the best student band musicians from all of Northern California.
- ★ Hopkins Bands – 17 “Unanimous Superior” (highest possible rating) at CMEA Bay Section Festivals

ORCHESTRA PROGRAM

Advanced Orchestra

- ✧ “Featured Performer” at California All-State Music Education Conference, February 2012 & again February 2017 (the only orchestra accepted statewide for this performance each time!)
- ✧ “Unanimous Superior” (highest possible rating) at CMEA All-State Band/Orchestra Festival, each year 2013 - 2017. 1 of only 6 groups to achieve this rating statewide in 2017. Hopkins Wind Ensemble also achieved this top rating!
- ★ ***Advanced Orchestra*** – 11 “Superior” ratings and “1st Place” awards at Music in the Parks Disneyland Festival (2006-2017), including 4 “Perfect” Scores of “100” in 2010, 2012, 2013, and 2014 (only 5 Perfect Scores have **ever** been awarded since 1990—and Hopkins achieved 4 of them!)
- ★ ***Intermediate Orchestra*** – 10 “Superior” ratings and “1st Place” awards at Music in the Parks Great America Festival (2008-2017)
- ★ Hopkins Orchestras – 19 “Unanimous Superior” (highest possible rating) at CMEA Bay Section Festivals (2007-2017)
- ★ Hopkins Orchestras consistently have the highest number of students from any school accepted to the All-State JHS Honor Orchestra (8 students in 2017)—this is a statewide honor of distinction.

JAZZ PROGRAM

- ★ Hopkins Jazz Ensemble – 7 “Unanimous Superior” (highest possible rating) at CMEA Bay Section Festivals (2009-2017) and 11 “Superior” ratings and “1st Place” awards at Music in the Parks Disneyland Festival (2006-2017)

Hopkins Music Program participants have been accepted to these Colleges/Universities after completing High School (2011-2016) ... *this is only a partial list:*

In State:

Biola University
Cal Poly
California Institute of Technology (Caltech)
Occidental College
Pepperdine University
Pomona College
Saint Mary’s College
Santa Clara University
Stanford University
University of San Francisco
University of Southern California (USC)
University of the Pacific (UOP)
University of California:
Berkeley Riverside
Davis San Diego
Irvine Santa Barbara
Los Angeles Santa Cruz
Merced

Out of State:

Arizona State University
Boston University
Brown University
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western University
Duke University
Georgia Tech University
Gonzaga University
Harvard University
Johns Hopkins University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
New York University (NYU)
Northwestern University
Princeton University
Purdue University
St. John’s University
Southern Methodist University
University of Chicago
University of Hawaii
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota
University of North Carolina
University of Pennsylvania
University of Rochester
University of Washington
Yale University



HOPKINS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Gregory Conway, Director of Instrumental Music

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (Elementary Students)

1. Why should I take music in school?

• Learn New Skills

- Music takes the subjects that students learn (math, language, science, physical education, history) and lets students apply those skills in reading, performing, discussing, and expressing music.
- Students make many new friends through music because of the way music demands one to take notice and work with others – building their teamwork and collaboration skills.
- It is also a lot of fun!
- Students come away from music classes with a sense of pride and accomplishment in performing for their peers, family, and community.

• Award Winning Ensembles

- All of the elementary classes are designed to prepare students for participation in the Award Winning Ensembles at Hopkins JHS.
- The band program has been very well established at Hopkins for many years, and has won numerous awards. This is true of the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, and Concert Band, which all consistently receive “Superior” ratings at the CMEA Festivals and Music in the Parks Festivals. In 2010 - 2017, all 3 bands at Hopkins received “Superior” ratings at the CMEA Band Festival, and Wind Ensemble & Symphonic Band received 1st Place Awards at Music in the Parks Festivals. ***The Hopkins Wind Ensemble was one of only two middle school bands in the state selected to perform at the 2010 California Music Educators Association State Conference!***
- The orchestra program at Hopkins is in its fourth year of existence, and already has accomplished a lot. The orchestra program received a 1st-Place award at the first festival they attended in 2006, and received 1st place awards each year since 2008 at Music in the Parks Festivals. ***In 2010, the Hopkins Advanced Orchestra received a “perfect” score of “100” at the Music in the Parks Anaheim/Disneyland festival (and also again in 2012, 2013 & 2014)! Also, the Advanced Orchestra was a “featured performer” at the 2012& 2017 California All-State Music Education Conferences!***
- The orchestras have also earned the reputation as one of the best, strongest programs in the Bay Area and in California.
- Both the Hopkins Intermediate Orchestra and Advanced Orchestra received “Superior” ratings at the CMEA Orchestra Festival each year that they have attended from 2007-2017. The Hopkins Intermediate Orchestra is better than most JHS advanced orchestras (receiving many 1st place awards and high ratings), and several adjudicators have commented that the Hopkins Advanced Orchestra was the “best middle school orchestra I have ever heard!” over the past few years.
- Hopkins also has an Award Winning Jazz Ensemble, receiving 1st Place and “Superior” ratings consistently. In 2017, the Hopkins Jazz Ensemble received a “Unanimous Superior” at the CMEA Jazz Festival and “Superior”, “Outstanding Soloist”, and 1st Place awards at several jazz festivals throughout the year.

• Music is Favored by College and Universities

- **Having a background in music is looked upon very favorably by college and universities, regardless of the chosen field of study.**
- This often gives students an edge in the competition for acceptance into these institutions.
- Music students are looked at as automatically possessing skills that universities desire, including leadership, communication skills, problem-solving skills, ability to work in groups, and ability to perform in front of large audiences.
- Music also shows a strong “passion” that universities look for in application essays, and also shows participation in a subject that has strong community-based involvement.
- Students who are proficient on an instrument may also have higher chances of university admission if they are willing to play in musical ensembles, even if they are not a “music major”, because universities have to fill their bands and orchestras to perform and compete. (This is done fairly often according to UC Berkeley Director of Bands, Mr. Bob Calonico).
- ***Please read the attached “Why Take Music” page and “What Do Universities Say?” for more information.***

(Cont. on Next Page)

2. What is the difference between Band and Orchestra?

- **Band:** students learn to play wind and percussion instruments. These include the following: flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, bassoon, trumpet, French Horn, trombone, baritone, tuba, drums, and mallet percussion.
- **Orchestra:** the study of string instruments including violin, viola, cello, and string bass.
- Students in the Mission Attendance Area are fortunate to have the opportunity to study **both** types of instruments at the elementary school level!

3. Which is better: Band or Orchestra? How do I decide?

- **Band and Orchestra are both good.** There are benefits to each.
- Band (featuring woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments), is generally a larger class with more different types of instruments. Some band instruments are also used in the Junior High Jazz Bands.
- Orchestra features string instruments and is generally a smaller ensemble. There are space limitations in the orchestra program, but no such limits to the band classes.
- At the Junior High level, both groups of students have similar performance opportunities including participation in the CMEA Festivals annually, as well as a trip to Disneyland for a performance for most 8th graders, and a day trip to Great America for most 7th graders.
- At the elementary level, students have the option of starting both (band and strings) and then deciding later which they want to focus on. I would encourage students to take this option if possible.

4. What is the time commitment required for music classes?

- **Elementary level (grades 4-6):**
 - Band and orchestra classes meet after school for 1-1.5 hours per week.
 - Students will need to practice their instruments at home for a minimum of 15 minutes per day, every day.
 - This practice is essential, especially for beginners on their instruments.
 - Students in these classes will also have a few evening performance commitments as well (generally one in the fall and one in the spring).
- **Junior High level (grades 7-8)**
 - Band and orchestra classes meet during the school day, every day, for 48 minutes.
 - All class rehearsals are done during the school day.
 - Students at this level are required to practice their instruments for at least 20-30 minutes per day to improve their skills and learn their music. This is considered “homework” and is equivalent to homework required for any other class.
 - There are generally 2 – 4 evening concerts during the school year.
 - Performances include a local CMEA Festival performance on a Saturday in the spring, and at least one other Festival.
 - The only rehearsals outside the school day are for Jazz Band and Full Orchestra, which rehearse before or after school on selected days.
- **High School (grades 9-12)**
 - Band and orchestra class continue to meet during the school day each day.
 - All class rehearsals are done during the school day time.
 - Band students (not orchestra) are required at this time to also participate in “Marching Band”.
 - This class meets after school 2-3 days per week, and shows up as a separate class (that can be used for college admissions) on a student’s high school transcript. (This allows students to take extra “electives” that other students cannot take due to scheduling limitations.)
 - Band students at Mission San Jose High School have 2 band classes on their transcript during each fall semester.
 - This class allows band students to receive a “PE waiver” so that they do not have to take PE during high school.
 - **Marching Band does not meet after January!**
 - Orchestra students do not participate in Marching Band, and do not have the extra rehearsals after school.
 - The performance schedule is similar for High School as it is in Junior High, except for a few marching competitions in the fall.
 - Participating in band/orchestra in high school for at least 3 years is considered very desirable by colleges and universities!

5. How do I decide which instrument I will play?

- There is an instrument selection process that occurs in the fall.
- Students have an opportunity to try many different instruments.
- Students are placed on an instrument with which they will have a greater likelihood of success, as well as producing balanced performing ensembles at each level.
- All of the band and orchestra classes need to have a balanced instrumentation in order to perform high-quality music literature.

6. Which instruments are the “best” to start on?

- For band, all instruments are equally important. Sometimes, there are too many flutes and clarinets and not enough trumpets and trombones to have high-quality, balanced ensembles, so elementary students on brass instruments may have more performance opportunities in the future. Opportunities for saxophones are also extremely limited.
- For orchestra, all instruments are also equally important, but there is always a need for more violas and cellos.

7. Do I have to stay on the same instrument all the way through elementary, junior high, and high school?

- No, not necessarily.
- As students progress and get older (and bigger), they will have more instruments that they can choose from.
- Generally, many students switch instruments at either the 6th grade or 7th grade levels in both band and orchestra.
- However, many students also play the same instrument all the way through.
- Some students add additional instruments so that they can play more than one. (I, myself, perform regularly on all saxophones, flute, and clarinet.)

8. I have played piano for many years. What class can I take to play piano?

- Unfortunately there are no pianists in either the band or orchestra classes.
- There is no music written for piano in these ensembles.
- If a student has played piano, but no other instrument, I would recommend that they register for either “Beginning Band” or “Beginning Orchestra”, where they would learn how to play a new instrument.
- These students are generally ahead in music reading, but still need to learn all of the other physical skills required for band or orchestral instruments.

9. I used to play an instrument, but stopped. Can I start up again?

- Yes! You may need to set up an appointment to play for Mr. Conway so that he may place you in the correct class.
- You may also want to consider taking some private lessons to get “caught up” to where other students are depending on your level.

9. Where and when do elementary classes meet?

- All elementary music classes meet after school one day per week.
- See the attached class information pages for more details.

10. What are the differences between the elementary music classes? How do I know which to enroll in?

- There are 3 levels of elementary band and elementary orchestra in the Mission Attendance Area.
- See the attached band and orchestra pages for more information on which is appropriate for your child.

11. Do I have to provide my own instrument for elementary music classes?

- Yes. Generally, rental of an instrument ranges from \$15-40 per month depending on the model and type.
- After the students and teachers have decided on instrument selections, students will need to rent or purchase their own instrument.
- **It is very important that students learn to play on a high quality instrument!**
- Instruments that are not purchased from a music store are generally of very low quality, meaning that they are very difficult to play and cannot be repaired if anything should happen (all instruments require periodic adjustments).
- **DO NOT purchase instruments ONLINE or from general retailers such as Wal-Mart or Costco! They will cause nothing but problems!!!!!! If you are not sure, PLEASE ASK!**

12. Do I have to follow the recommended course sequence?

- Not necessarily. Students always have the option of testing into a higher-level class.
- Students may start the elementary classes at any time in 4th through 6th grade. **It is strongly recommended, however, that students begin an instrument in either 4th or 5th grade.**

13. I have more questions about the music program at Hopkins. Where should I look and who should I contact?

- Hopkins Music Dept. website: www.musicathopkins.com. There is a lot of information about the Hopkins Music Program, including the elementary bands and orchestras, on this site.
- If you still have questions, feel free to contact Mr. Conway. Generally, the best way to contact him is via e-mail at gconway@musicathopkins.com.
- You may also leave a voice message, but it may take a few days for your call to be returned: (510) 656-3500, ext. 38023.

Music Class Sequence: Mission Attendance Area FUSD (For students beginning in 4th Grade)

Band*

4th Grade: Elementary Beginning Band

This class provides an introduction to the instrument and establishes basics, including music reading, tone production, correct playing techniques, and basic performance techniques. There will be a minimum of one concert. Classes meet at each elementary school once per week for 1 hour.

5th Grade: Elementary Intermediate Band

This class is a continuation of Band, picking up from the end of Beginning Band. This class involves 5th grade students from all elementary schools in the Mission Attendance Area, and continues refinement of skills related to music reading, playing techniques, and tone production. There is also a focus on harmony and musical independence. There will be a minimum of two concerts: one in January/February and one in May/June. This class meets at Hopkins JHS once per week in the evening for 1 hour, and is taught by the Associate Director of Bands at Hopkins.

6th Grade: Advanced Elementary Band

This class involves 6th grade students from all elementary schools in the Mission Attendance Area. It provides a continuation of Band classes, with a focus on large-ensemble performance. It also includes “sectional rehearsals” with instrument specialists on each instrument. This class is an opportunity for students to switch to some of the larger band instruments (such as trombone, baritone, tuba, bass clarinet, bassoon, etc.) It is also an opportunity for band students to meet and interact with students from other schools that they will be in band class with in 7th and 8th grade. This ensemble performs at least two times per year: in January/February, and in May/June. This class meets at Hopkins JHS once per week in the evening for 2 hours, and is taught by the Director of Bands at Hopkins.

7th Grade: Hopkins JHS Concert Band

This class represents the first opportunity for students to have music classes as part of their daily school schedule. Classes meet as part of the regular school schedule for 49 minutes per day. Continuation and refinement of skills such as tone production, ensemble balance, blend, and intonation are focused upon. Also, students learn and master an advanced level of music reading, notation, and theory. Many students switch instruments in the class in order to form a balanced ensemble. These students who switch to a new instrument receive private group lessons (by instrument) once per week from the band director. This ensemble performs at a very high level, and requires a lot of musical growth during the year. Concert Band performs at a minimum of 3 evening concerts during the year, as well as traveling to the CMEA Band Festival in the spring, and performing at a Music in the Parks Festival at Great America.

8th Grade: Hopkins JHS Symphonic Band OR Wind Ensemble

These are the second in the comprehensive Band sequence at Hopkins JHS. Classes again meet as part of the regular school schedule for 49 minutes per day. This class also continues refinement of all previously learned skills. There is an introduction of more advanced performance and music reading concepts. Symphonic Band & Wind Ensemble are each considered to be one of the highest-level middle school/junior high bands in the State of California. This class is designed to prepare students to participate in the bands at Mission San Jose High School. Symphonic Band & Wind Ensemble perform at a minimum of 3 evening concerts during the year. This ensemble also participates in the spring CMEA Band Festival, and travels to Anaheim, CA (Disneyland) to participate in the Music in the Parks festival in May. Students in this class have the opportunity to audition for the Hopkins Jazz Ensemble, which is a “Big Band” that meets before school every day. Also, selected students from Wind Ensemble will be asked to play with the Full Orchestra. (Wind Ensemble is a slightly more advanced group with students accepted by audition.)

** There are many exceptions to this sequence, and students always have the option of testing into a higher level if there is space in the class. Students may also begin the sequence at any time in elementary school. However, it is strongly recommended that students begin an instrument in 4th or 5th grade.*

Hopkins JHS Music Class Sequence, Page 2

Orchestra*

4th Grade: Elementary Beginning String Orchestra

This class provides an introduction to the instrument and establishes basics, including music reading, tone production, correct playing techniques, and basic performance techniques. The first meeting of this class will involve an instrument selection process to establish a balanced ensemble. There will be a minimum of two concerts, one in the winter and one in the spring. Classes meets at Hopkins JHS once per week for 1 hour, and involve students from all Mission Attendance Area elementary schools (Chadbourne, Gomes, Mission San Jose, and Mission Valley).

5th Grade: Elementary Intermediate String Orchestra

This class is a continuation of Orchestra, picking up from the end of Beginning Strings. It continues with more advanced topics related to music reading, playing techniques, and tone production. There is also a focus on harmony and musical independence. There will be a minimum of two concerts, one in the winter and one in the spring. Classes meets at Hopkins JHS once per week for 1 hour, and involve students from all Mission Attendance Area elementary schools.

6th Grade: Elementary Advanced String Orchestra

This class is a continuation of Intermediate Orchestra, picking up from the end of Intermediate Strings. It continues more detailed refinement of skills including music reading, tone production, and more advanced playing techniques. There is continuing focus on harmony, musical independence, and musicality. Students in this class are expected to perform at a high elementary level. There will be a minimum of two concerts, one in the winter and one in the spring. Class meets at Hopkins JHS once per week for 75 minutes, and involves students from all Mission Attendance Area elementary schools.

7th Grade: Hopkins JHS Intermediate Orchestra

This class represents the first opportunity for students to have music classes as part of their daily school schedule. Classes meet as part of the regular school schedule for 49 minutes per day. Continuation and refinement of skills such as tone production, ensemble balance, blend, and intonation are focused upon. Also, students learn and master an advanced level of music reading, notation, and theory. This ensemble performs at a very high level, and requires a lot of musical growth during the year. **This class is not to be confused with *Elementary Intermediate Orchestra*, as they are not the same!** Intermediate Orchestra performs in a minimum of 3 evening concerts per year, and travels to the local CMEA Orchestra Festival, and a Music in the Parks Festival at Great America in the spring.

8th Grade: Hopkins JHS Advanced Orchestra & Full Orchestra

This is the second in the comprehensive Orchestra sequence at Hopkins JHS. Classes again meet as part of the regular school schedule for 49 minutes per day. This class continues refinement of all previously learned skills. There is also an introduction of more advanced performance and music reading concepts. This class is designed to prepare students to participate in the orchestra at Mission San Jose High School, and performs at a very high level. Advanced Orchestra performs at a minimum of 3 evening concerts during the year. This ensemble also participates in the spring CMEA Orchestra Festival, and travels to Anaheim, CA (Disneyland) to participate in the Music in the Parks festival in May. Selected students in this class are part of the Hopkins Full Orchestra, where members of Wind Ensemble are brought in to rehearse with the string players.

** There are many exceptions to this sequence, and students always have the option of testing into a higher level if there is space in the class. Students may also begin the sequence at any time in elementary school. However, it is strongly recommended that students begin an instrument in 4th or 5th grade.*



AFTER-SCHOOL ELEMENTARY BAND PROGRAM

Beginning Band

Website: www.musicathopkins.com; www.fremont-education.org

COME JOIN THE BAND!



ATTENTION – ALL INCOMING 4TH, 5TH, AND 6TH GRADERS!

Fremont USD & the Fremont Education Foundation will once again be providing Beginning Band classes at each elementary school during the 2017-2018 school year. These classes are open to **all 4th, 5th, and 6th Grade students** in the Mission Attendance Area. *These classes are the 1st steps for students to ensure participation in the Award-Winning Hopkins JHS Bands!* The classes offered are as follows:

- **Elementary Beginning Band**
Designed for students who have no band experience.

Class Information

All classes meet after-school 1 day per week, for 1 hour.

Classes are held at each elementary school site (Chadbourne, Gomes, Mission San Jose, and Mission Valley).

Classes begin 10-minutes after school dismissal.

Classes taught by instructors provided by the Fremont Education Foundation

Elementary Band Instruments: *Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Baritone, Percussion (Drums & Mallets), Oboe, Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone. *BEGINNERS - DO NOT RENT/PURCHASE INSTRUMENTS UNTIL AFTER THE FIRST CLASS MEETING – MORE INFO WILL BE AVAILABLE ON INSTRUMENT SELECTION IN THE FALL!*

Registration for these classes will begin on the 1st day of school in August through the Fremont Education Foundation website: www.fremont-education.org. The online form below will allow you to receive sign-up information and class information over the summer from Mr. Conway, so that you do not miss the registration deadline. **It does not register you for the class!**

All classes begin in **mid-October** and run through **mid-May**. Final schedules will be posted on the Fremont Education Foundation website (www.fremont-education.org) in mid-August. The Fremont Education Foundation funds the After-School Bands through parent and community donations and some district funds, but receives no money from state or federal funds.

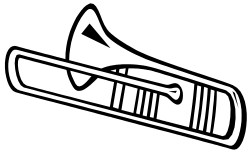
To receive more information about these classes and the registration process, please complete the “interest form” for Beginning Band on the Hopkins Music Department website:

www.musicathopkins.com/programs/elementary-bands-orchestras

***** This online form does not register your student for band classes! *****

➤ **FORMS DUE BY AUGUST 1ST, 2017**

More information will be sent to you in August. Thank you!



HOPKINS INTERMEDIATE ELEMENTARY BAND

Website: www.musicathopkins.com

COME JOIN THE BAND!



ATTENTION – ALL INCOMING 4TH & 5TH GRADERS WHO HAVE PLAYED A BAND INSTRUMENT FOR AT LEAST THE PAST YEAR!

The time has come to sign up for the Intermediate Elementary Band Program that is offered at Hopkins Junior High School for the 2017-2018 school year. This program is open to **4th & 5th GRADERS** who have played their band instrument for at least one year.

****6th Grade students with 1 or more years' experience should register for the "Advanced Elementary Band" class – details regarding that class are on the following pages.**

- Mission Area **Intermediate** Elementary Band
- Starts Wednesday, September 20th, 2017
- **Meets every Wednesday**
- 5:00 – 6:00 pm at Hopkins Junior High School

The classes will be taught by the **Associate Director of Bands at Hopkins Junior High School**. The cost of this program is a **one-time \$190 tax deductible donation** for the entire year (September-June). This offsets the costs associated with the class including instructors, equipment, facilities, maintenance, books and sheet music, etc. Students will need to be transported to and from Hopkins. *(No student will be denied participation due to financial reasons.)*

The elementary band program has been designed to prepare students to enter the Award-Winning Hopkins Junior High Band Program *(which is among the best in California!)* in their 7th grade year. This class allows the students to work with one of their upcoming junior high music teachers for an entire year, and to have the opportunity of working with a state credentialed music teacher. The students will continue to work from the "Standard of Excellence" method book, as well as playing a variety of band pieces with a focus of learning to play in a large ensemble. They will have at least 2-3 concerts during the school year.

ALL STUDENTS WHO ARE ENTERING 4TH OR 5TH GRADE WITH AT LEAST ONE YEAR'S EXPERIENCE ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS CLASS!

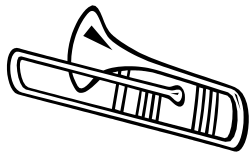
DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY NOW. IT WILL INVALIDATE YOUR APPLICATION.

To register for this class, please complete the online registration form for "Intermediate Elementary Band" on the Hopkins Music Department website:

www.musicathopkins.com/programs/elementary-bands-orchestras

➤ **REGISTRATION DUE BY AUGUST 1ST, 2017**

More information will be sent to you in August. Thank you!



HOPKINS ADVANCED ELEMENTARY BAND

Website: www.musicathopkins.com

COME JOIN THE BAND!



ATTENTION – ALL INCOMING 6TH GRADERS WHO HAVE PLAYED A BAND INSTRUMENT FOR AT LEAST THE PAST YEAR!

The time has come to sign up for the Advanced Elementary Band Program that is offered at Hopkins Junior High School for the 2017-2018 school year. This program is open to **6TH GRADERS** who have played their band instrument for at least one year, or **ADVANCED 5th grade** students.

****6th Grade students with NO BAND EXPERIENCE may be able to participate in this class as well – Please contact Mr. Conway (gconway@musicathopkins.com) for more information!**

- Mission Area **Advanced** Elementary Band
- Starts Thursday, September 14th, 2017
- **Meets every Thursday**
- 5:30 – 7:30 pm at Hopkins Junior High School

The classes will be taught by the **Director of Instrumental Music at Hopkins Junior High School**. The cost of this program is a **one-time \$190 tax deductible donation** for the entire year (September-June). This offsets the costs associated with the class including instructors, equipment, facilities, maintenance, books and sheet music, etc. Students will need to be transported to and from Hopkins. *(No student will be denied participation due to financial reasons.)*

Continuing in 2017-2018, students will have the opportunity to work with specialists on their instrument for the first hour of each class meeting. This will allow them to work on “instrument-specific techniques” in order to better prepare them for entrance into the Junior High and High School band programs. The second hour of each class will involve large-group rehearsals on concert performance literature.

This program has been designed to prepare students to enter the Award-Winning Hopkins Junior High Band Program *(which is among the best in California!)* in their 7th grade year. It allows the students to work with their upcoming junior high music teacher for an entire year, and to have the opportunity of working with a state credentialed music teacher. The students will continue to work from the “Standard of Excellence” method book, as well as playing a variety of band pieces with a focus of learning to play in a large ensemble. They will have at least 2-3 concerts during the school year.

This class is also the first opportunity for students to explore switching to new instruments that are not necessarily taught at the elementary level. These include: **oboe, bassoon, tenor saxophone, French Horn, trombone, and baritone**, and there may be some school-owned instruments available for use for these students.

ALL STUDENTS WHO ARE ENTERING 6TH GRADE WITH AT LEAST ONE YEAR’S EXPERIENCE ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS CLASS! Students with two years of experience who are entering 5th grade may be eligible as well. Also, those students that play **trombone, baritone, tuba, French horn, bass clarinet, tenor saxophone, percussion, and oboe** will HAVE PRIORITY.

DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY NOW. IT WILL INVALIDATE YOUR APPLICATION.

To register for this class, please complete the online registration form for “Advanced Elementary Band” on the Hopkins Music Department website:

www.musicathopkins.com/programs/elementary-bands-orchestras

➤ **REGISTRATION DUE BY AUGUST 1ST, 2017**

More information will be sent to you in August. Thank you!



HOPKINS AFTER-SCHOOL BEGINNING STRING ORCHESTRA

Website: www.musicathopkins.com

OPEN TO Incoming 4th AND 5TH GRADERS

The Hopkins Music Department will be offering 2 BEGINNING AFTER-SCHOOL STRING ORCHESTRA classes for the 2017-18 school year. This program will be open to all incoming 4th & 5th graders for the 2017-2018 school year who are interested in playing violin, viola, or cello (with NO experience required). **Students who already play a string instrument (violin, viola, cello) should register for the Intermediate or Advanced class based on their experience level!**

Beginning Orchestra

- 4th & 5th grade **BEGINNING** Orchestra – Open to students at Chadbourne, Gomes, Mission Valley, Mission San Jose
- **6th Grade Students are not allowed in the Beginning String Classes!*
- There are TWO Beginning classes offered:

Beginning Class #1

- Starts Tuesday, September 19th, 2017
- **Meets every Tuesday**
- **4:45-5:45pm** at Hopkins Junior High

Beginning Class #2

- Starts Tuesday, September 19th, 2017
- **Meets every Tuesday**
- **6:00-7:00pm** at Hopkins Junior High

- **No experience necessary – Beginners only on Violin, Viola, Cello, String Bass**

The Music Department at Hopkins JHS will be hosting the program. The cost of this program is a **one-time \$190 tax deductible donation** for the entire year (September-May). This includes the cost of a book for the class as well. Students will need to be transported to and from Hopkins. *(No student will be denied participation due to financial reasons.)*

Students will study the basics of string instrument technique and music theory. They will work on improving their technique and skills through exercises, etudes, small group playing, full orchestra literature, and method book study. Students will participate in 2-3 concerts during the school year. The classes are designed to prepare students for eventual participation in the Award-Winning Hopkins JHS String Orchestras, which are among the best in California!

BEGINNERS: The first class meeting will allow students to see the violin, viola, and cello and make a choice on which instrument they would like to play. Students will be required to rent or buy their string instrument from one of our local music stores. ***Please DO NOT buy or rent your instrument before the first class.*** *Students will not know what instrument they are playing until the first class.* More information will be provided in September.

Involvement in music benefits the students in many ways. Colleges look highly upon students who participate in music. The enjoyment that a student gets from succeeding on their instrument and the lasting friendships that are made will stay with them for a lifetime.

DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY NOW. IT WILL INVALIDATE YOUR APPLICATION.

To register for this class, please complete the online registration form for “Beginning Elementary Orchestra” on the Hopkins Music Department website:

www.musicathopkins.com/programs/elementary-bands-orchestras

➤ **REGISTRATION DUE BY AUGUST 1ST, 2017.**

➤ *Due to space constraints, a limited number of students will be accepted into these classes. Applications will be processed on a first come, first served basis.*

More information will be sent to you in August. Thank you!

HOPKINS AFTER-SCHOOL INTERMEDIATE STRING ORCHESTRA PROGRAM

Website: www.musicathopkins.com

OPEN TO Incoming 4th, 5th, AND 6TH GRADERS



The Hopkins Music Department will once again be offering INTERMEDIATE, AND ADVANCED AFTER-SCHOOL STRING ORCHESTRA classes for the 2017-18 school year. These programs will be open to all incoming 4th, 5th, and 6th graders for the 2017-2018 school year who are already playing violin, viola, or cello, or string bass and have **at least 1 year's experience.**

Intermediate Orchestra

- 4th, 5th, and 6th grade **INTERMEDIATE** Orchestra – Open to students at Chadbourne, Gomes, Mission Valley, Mission San Jose Elementary Schools
- There are TWO Intermediate classes offered:

Intermediate Class #1

- Starts Tuesday, September 19th, 2017
- **Meets every Tuesday**
- **3:30-4:30pm** at Hopkins Junior High

Intermediate Class #2

- Starts Tuesday, September 19th, 2017
- **Meets every Tuesday**
- **7:15-8:15pm** at Hopkins Junior High

- Must have AT LEAST 1 OR MORE YEARS experience on **violin, viola, cello, or string bass**

The Music Department at Hopkins JHS will be hosting the program. The cost of this program is a **one-time \$190 tax deductible donation** for the entire year (September-May) to the Hopkins Music Dept. This offsets the costs associated with the class including instructor, equipment, facilities, maintenance, books and sheet music, etc. Students will need to be transported to and from Hopkins. *(No student will be denied participation due to financial reasons.)*

Students will study the basics of string instrument technique and music theory. They will work on improving their technique and skills through exercises, etudes, small group playing, orchestra literature, and method book study. Students will participate in 2-3 concerts during the school year. The classes are designed to prepare students for eventual participation in the Award-Winning Hopkins JHS String Orchestras, which are among the best in California!

Involvement in music benefits the students in many ways. Colleges look highly upon students who participate in music. The enjoyment that a student gets from succeeding on their instrument and the lasting friendships that are made will stay with them for a lifetime.

DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY NOW. IT WILL INVALIDATE YOUR APPLICATION.

To register for this class, please complete the online registration form for “Intermediate Elementary Orchestra” on the Hopkins Music Department website:

www.musicathopkins.com/programs/elementary-bands-orchestras

➤ **REGISTRATION DUE BY AUGUST 1ST, 2017.**

More information will be sent to you in August. Thank you!

HOPKINS AFTER-SCHOOL ADVANCED STRING ORCHESTRA PROGRAM

Website: www.musicathopkins.com

OPEN TO Incoming 4th, 5th, AND 6TH GRADERS



The Hopkins Music Department will once again be offering an ADVANCED AFTER-SCHOOL STRING ORCHESTRA classes for the 2016-17 school year. These programs will be open to all incoming 4th, 5th, and 6th graders for the 2017-2018 school year who are already playing violin, viola, or cello, or string bass and have **at least 2 years' experience.**

Elementary Advanced Orchestra

- 4th, 5th, and 6th grade **ADVANCED** Orchestra – Open to students at Chadbourne, Gomes, Mission Valley, Mission San Jose Elementary Schools
- Starts: Thursday, September 21, 2017
- **Meets every Thursday**
- **3:45-5:00pm** at Hopkins Junior High School
- Must have AT LEAST 2 OR MORE YEARS experience on **violin, viola, cello, or string bass.** (*Students with less than 2 years' experience who are very "advanced" may be eligible for this class with director approval.*)
- **Class taught by Mr. Greg Conway, the Director of Instrumental Music at Hopkins JHS**

The Music Department at Hopkins JHS will be hosting the program. The cost of this program is a **one-time \$190 tax deductible donation** for the entire year (September-May) to the Hopkins Music Dept. This offsets the costs associated with the class including equipment, facilities, maintenance, books and sheet music, etc. Students will need to be transported to and from Hopkins. (*No student will be denied participation due to financial reasons.*)

Students will study the basics of string instrument technique and music theory. They will work on improving their technique and skills through exercises, etudes, small group playing, orchestra literature, and method book study. Students will participate in 2-3 concerts during the school year. The classes are designed to prepare students for eventual participation in the Award-Winning Hopkins JHS String Orchestras, which are among the best in California!

This class is also the first opportunity for students to explore switching to new instruments that are not necessarily as common at the elementary level. These especially include **viola** and **string bass**, and there may be some school-owned instruments available for use for these students.

Involvement in music benefits the students in many ways. Colleges look highly upon students who participate in music. The enjoyment that a student gets from succeeding on their instrument and the lasting friendships that are made will stay with them for a lifetime.

DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY NOW. IT WILL INVALIDATE YOUR APPLICATION.

To register for this class, please complete the online registration form for "Intermediate Elementary Orchestra" on the Hopkins Music Department website:

www.musicathopkins.com/programs/elementary-bands-orchestras

➤ **REGISTRATION DUE BY AUGUST 1ST, 2017.**

More information will be sent to you in August. Thank you!