

Medea Creek Middle School

6th Grade Electives

Information for 2017-2018

Dear 5th grade parents,

Our names are Elana Levine and Elayne Roesner. We are very excited to meet you and your students! We teach the music electives at Medea Creek Middle School, and this letter will tell you about your elective options next fall when your student begins 6th grade.

There will likely be three different elective classes that 6th grade students can choose to take: Band, Choir, and a third class that is not music but will be determined for you when school starts in August. The Band and Choir classes are year-long courses. They are open to any incoming 6th, 7th, and 8th grade student, even if they have never studied an instrument or taken singing lessons. In order to help your child choose a class and an instrument that they will enjoy and that will be suitable for them, we have put together an amazing event for you and your student:

Medea Creek Instrument Selection Night - Thursday, May 4, 2017, 3:30–7:30 pm
REQUIRED if you might take band
Location: MCMS Band Room (B-2) and the MCMS Gym

If your child might play in the band, they must attend our selection night with at least one parent. If your child is certain that they will take the non-music class, and not learn an instrument, they do not need to attend. At this very important event, students will have the opportunity to try the various band instruments with the help of a professional. If your child chooses to play in the band, it is extremely important that we find the right instrument for your student. We will consider student preference, physical characteristics, and the instrumentation needed for a well-balanced band. We will take each student's request on this evening, and email home a final instrument assignment list in early June. We will **not** fill the sections on a first-come, first-served basis. We have designed our selection night process so that your student has an enjoyable time trying the instruments and making a successful decision.

Please plan for this process to take a few hours.

Please make every effort possible to attend this important event.

Students must try at least two instruments.

At this selection night, each 5th grader will also be asked to complete a Student Record Form. *If your student does not attend the selection night they will very likely not get their first or second choice of instrument.*

- Band students may begin on any of the following instruments:
Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone and Percussion.

If your student is interested in playing in the band, it is very important that you and your child come to the Instrument Selection Night. In order to have successful music programs in the long term, we need to have a well-balanced number of people playing the different instruments. A good analogy would be a football team, where all the positions need to be covered. A football team with 8 quarterbacks and no linemen will not be successful. A band with 35 saxophones and no trombones will not be successful either. We have to limit the number of students who start on some instruments. Students who decide to join band after the Selection Night may not have the option of every instrument available to them. Even if your child already plays an instrument, or already knows what they would like to play, they still **MUST** come to the Selection Night. Please contact the appropriate band teacher if you have any questions. If you already own the instrument that you are hoping to play, please bring it with you so that we can check to make sure it is a good fit for your child and in good working order.

Please note that if your student is interested in taking choir, they do not have to attend the instrument selection night. They must check the box on their Elective Form that they would like to be placed in the choir class as an elective and they will begin the choir class the first day of school!

We are very excited to meet you and your student! This is an exciting time, full of new opportunities and challenges. We are eager to get to know our new Medea Creek music families, and would be happy to answer any questions that you might have. Our contact information is included below. We look forward to having your child as a part of our band and choir family!

Thank you very much,

Elana Levine and Elayne Roesner

Contact Information:

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