

WHITMAN MUSIC



WELCOME [BACK]

Welcome back, or welcome for the first time to the 82 (!!) new students we have in the music program this year! I'm excited that our program is growing and can't wait to see what our ensembles can accomplish together this year.

Our school has only one certificated music teacher - that's me! My name is Melanie Gunn and I am a percussionist and violinist, but am fluent in a wide variety of instruments. I love that I get to teach Band and Orchestra at Whitman! Each month I send out a newsletter to keep you up to date about what we're doing.

REGISTRATION

Please remember to fill out your annual registration at www.fowmusic.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Oct 12 - Curriculum Night
- October 19 - MOD Pizza fundraiser (Ballard location)
- November 14 - Pops Concert (Movies) - 6 pm
- December 6 - Jazz Band at Wheelie Pop - 6 pm
- December 7 - Introductory Ensemble "Informance" - 6 pm

TO-DO

- Fill out your annual registration form
- Make sure your student has **all black** concert clothes.

INTRODUCTORY ORCHESTRA

The first week and a half we will spend getting to know each other, learning about instruments, classroom procedures, and selecting the instruments we want to play for the year. Students are guided to make choices that fit their tonal preferences and in some cases, our physical body. This selection process happens in the following steps:

1. I will demonstrate each instrument and talk a little about it
2. Students will do a listening activity that identifies their natural sound preferences
3. Students will get the chance to try multiple instruments hands-on
4. Students rate their top three choices. In the case that a student is not assigned their first choice, a conference with the student and myself would happen first. Students that already play an instrument will not be asked to switch from their current instrument unless they request a change.

Our first day of instruments will be **Monday, September 18**.

CONCERT ORCHESTRA

Welcome back! We have 2 members new to our program this year and I'm excited to have the largest group we've had so far - 32 members! However, with larger numbers comes the increasing challenge of teaching a mixed-level 7/8 class with one advanced 6th grader. We will be trying out lots of new things in Orchestra this year, with some returning. Some things to expect from this year:

- More consistent chamber music, including two stable advanced string quartets that will stay together all year and sometimes rehearse separately while the full group is rehearsing
- "Orchestra buddies" where 8th grade students work 1:1 with a younger student on specific techniques during class time
- Genius Hour
- Small groups - Advanced and Intermediate.
 - Intermediate group will work on technique building
 - Advanced group will be a Chamber Orchestra with more advanced repertoire, performing on the concerts
- Practice Logs remain, although we are doing a test run of a new system. 8th grade students in Concert Orchestra may elect to be graded on minutes or not. If not, they are graded on days practiced, practice techniques, and reflection. 8th graders also will not need a parent signature. As this is a test run, I reserve the right to revert some or all students back to the practice log the 7th graders will have.
- Practice logs are back to being due every week, as many students found it too difficult to manage the 2-week cycle last year.

INTRODUCTORY BAND

The first week and a half we will spend getting to know each other, learning about instruments, classroom procedures, and selecting the instruments we want to play for the year. Students are guided to make choices that fit their tonal preferences and in some cases, our physical body. This selection process happens in the following steps:

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INTERMEDIATE BAND

This year our class has nine 6th graders and we are excited to support them as they enhance our ensemble!

This group is larger than last year's and I'm excited to work with the instrumentation we have. In total we have 42 members which is going to give us a nice, full sound!

This group will be piloting new curriculum using the book "Make It Happen!" **which is available for purchase on the Source.** This book is designed with second year students in mind, offering some gentle review at the beginning of the book for those that took the summer off (and easing in our 6th graders) while giving the feel of a more advanced book. New concepts are scaffolded nicely throughout the book and it covers the key signatures we'll see most often in band music at their level.

Things to expect from this year:

- "Band Buddies" where 6th graders are paired with older students for 1:1 help
- Chamber Music duets
- Genius Hour Lite - semi-guided projects exploring music, preparing them for full Genius Hour in Concert Band
- Practice Logs
- Focus on rhythm, tone, and articulations

CONCERT BAND

Welcome back! I'm excited to work with this group of all returning students this year. I am expecting we will have a larger gap in abilities in the ensemble this year. We have 13 students that re-enrolled for Concert Band from last year, 16 that moved up from Intermediate Band, and 5 that jumped from Intro to Concert Band! Here are some things students can expect from this year:

- Sectionals & 1:1 time with other students to support our 5 students that skipped a level
- Chamber music including advanced groups such as a flute quartet & brass ensemble
- Genius Hour
- Focus on musical expression
- Fast-paced learning with lots of music - we have 5 performances this year including our state competition in June!

WHEN DOES _____ START?

Jazz Band: Monday, September 18 - 8:00-8:45 am

*Meets Mon, Tues, Thurs this year

Drumline: Thursday, September 21 - 3:50-5:00 pm

Tri-M: Friday, September 22 - 3:50-4:40 pm

