

## DICKERSON MUSIC DEPARTMENT

# Frequently Asked Questions

**WELCOME TO THE DICKERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSIC PROGRAM. OVER 98% OF OUR INCOMING 6TH GRADERS SIGN UP FOR EITHER BAND, CHORUS, OR ORCHESTRA EVERY YEAR. OUR COMMUNITY HAS BEEN ELECTED AS ONE OF THE BEST COMMUNITIES FOR MUSIC EDUCATION IN AMERICA BY THE NAMM FOUNDATION FOR THE LAST 20 YEARS. BELOW YOU WILL FIND SOME FAQs THAT OUR INCOMING PARENTS AND STUDENTS OFTEN HAVE. IF YOU NEED ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE FEEL FREE TO REACH OUT TO ANY OF OUR MUSIC STAFF.**

**WILL GRIMES**  
BAND DIRECTOR

**SCOTT BROWN**  
BAND DIRECTOR

**SONYA GUERRA**  
CHORUS DIRECTOR

**TRICIA HARDY**  
ORCHESTRA DIRECTOR

**JACOB BITINAS**  
ORCHESTRA DIRECTOR

### **When/how does my child select a music class?**

During the first week of school sixth graders rotate through all connections classes to experience each unique ensemble. Band, Chorus, and Orchestra are all included in this rotation. At the end of the rotation, students will bring home a form to complete with their parent/guardian to choose a music class.

### **Does my child have to take band, chorus, or orchestra?**

No, your child does not have to take a music class. However, over 98% of Dickerson students are in band, chorus, or orchestra. The growth that your child will experience being in one of these classes is amazing!

### **Does my child need background experience in music or an instrument?**

No, the majority of Dickerson students do not have any experience playing instruments or taking lessons before they begin in sixth grade.

### **What if my child has no idea what he/she wants to do?**

Each director will work with your child to determine the best ensemble and instrument for his/her success.

### **Will my child change music classes throughout the year?**

No, once your child chooses band, chorus, or orchestra class, it is a year-long commitment.

If you are interested in dropping a music ensemble for the next school year, a parent must contact the director in May. Once the director and the parent decide that dropping the class for the upcoming year is the best option, the director will communicate this with our school scheduler. Students are not allowed to switch to another music program while at Dickerson.

### **What if I have a question or concern about music classes throughout the year?**

Contact the director of the program first – even before contacting an administrator. The director is your go-to person for all music questions.

### **How will I get information about music classes once my child is in an ensemble?**

Each music class blog/website is updated continually throughout the year with all information about the class, fundraisers, concerts, and general announcements. This is a very important communication tool that must be checked regularly to stay informed. Information will also be disseminated via papers sent home and electronic communication.