

May 2010

Dear Third, Fourth, and Fifth Grade Parents,

Hello from the Hopkins Jr. High School Music Department! As the Director of Instrumental Music at Hopkins JHS, I would like to invite you and your child to join or continue in the Elementary Band and Orchestra Programs in the Mission Attendance Area during the **2010-2011 school year!** All incoming 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students in the Mission Attendance Area have the great opportunity to learn music through one or more of these programs, and the eventual opportunity to 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 affect both a student's academic and social performance. 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 some of these benefits so that you may see some of the studies and research that has been done about music and arts education, as well as a list of what college and universities say about music education in school. These lists are included as part of this packet.

As a quick sample of some of the benefits of music education:

1. 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 statistic is true for both low-performing schools and very high-performing schools (according to a study conducted by the University of Kansas).
2. 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 1990's. 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 when compared with students not in music classes.
3. 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 one of the only classes that show that a student has developed skills in group work, multi-tasking, spatial reasoning, mathematics, leadership, community spirit, and many other areas. **This is especially true now with the changes in testing requirements for UC's and other universities!**
4. Did you know that Hopkins Jr. High School has one of the strongest, largest, and highest quality 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-1980's. In 2009 & 2010, each of the 3 Hopkins Bands received the highest rating of "Superior" at the CMEA Band Festival. The Hopkins JHS 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 March 2010. The Orchestra program, although relatively new, has already also achieved a very strong reputation. The Hopkins Advanced Orchestra was the "best middle school string orchestra" in California in Spring 2008, and continues to be among the best in the state and country. **In May 2010, The Hopkins Advanced Orchestra received a "perfect" rating of "100" at the Music in the Parks Festival in Anaheim.** In each year since 2007, both Hopkins Orchestras received "Unanimous Superior" (the highest possible) ratings at the CMEA Orchestra Festival. ***Almost all of these students participated in the After-School Bands and Orchestras during their elementary school years.***

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5. Did you know that, at Hopkins Jr. High School, most of the top performing students at the school participate in the music program (band or orchestra)? The winners of the Hopkins Geography Bee and the Hopkins Spelling Bee almost every year have been music students. In 2009, 4 of the 5 members of the Hopkins Science Bowl Team that took 1<sup>st</sup> Place in a nationwide competition in Washington D.C. in April were enrolled in music classes at Hopkins. Also, most of the students taking the Advanced Science and Advanced Math classes at Hopkins are music students.

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

- The *After-School Band* program run by the Fremont Education Foundation offers Beginning and Intermediate level classes at each elementary site. These classes meet after school once per week, and are offered at no cost to the student. Band instruments include all woodwinds, brass, and percussion.
- The *Advanced Elementary Band* is run by the Hopkins JHS Music Department and is taught by the Director of Instrumental Music at Hopkins. This class is designed for students who are 6<sup>th</sup> graders and have been playing their band instrument for at least one year. There is a one-time registration fee for this class, which is good for 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).
- The *Elementary String Orchestra* program is run by the Hopkins JHS Music Department and meets at Hopkins once per week after school. These classes require a one-time registration fee, which is good for the entire school year. There are Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced Orchestra classes offered through this program. Orchestral instruments include violin, viola, cello, and string bass.

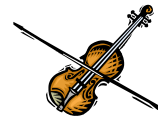
In this packet, I have included several pages that explain the music program in more detail. These include information about the importance of music education, “Frequently Asked Questions” about music classes, the sequence of music classes for band and orchestra, and specific class information sheets. Once you have read through the packet, you will want to make sure that you fill out the correct form(s) and return them to me at Hopkins by June 25<sup>th</sup>.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at any time. E-mail is the fastest way to get a response from me, as I sometimes have 30-40 phone messages at a time to return. Thank you for taking the time to go through this packet with your student. For more information, please visit the Hopkins Music Department website at [www.musicathopkins.com](http://www.musicathopkins.com). I look forward to working with many of you and your students in the upcoming years!

Musically,

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Hopkins Jr. High School  
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# 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.

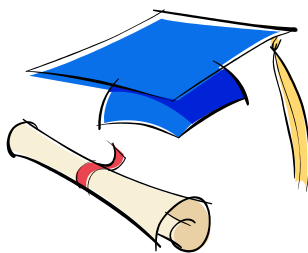
**For more stats and figures visit: <http://www.menc.org/resources/view/why-music-education-2007>**

*Sources: MENC-The National Association for Music Education “Why Music Education?” 2007  
& [www.schoolmusicmatters.com](http://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 area 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 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 2009 & 2010, All 3 bands at Hopkins received “Superior” ratings at the CMEA Band Festival, and 1<sup>st</sup> Place Awards with all bands 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 1<sup>st</sup>-Place award at the first festival they attended in 2006, and received 1<sup>st</sup> place awards in 2008, 2009, & 2010 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!***
- The orchestras are beginning to get 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 2007-2010. The Hopkins Intermediate Orchestra is better than most JHS advanced orchestras, 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 1<sup>st</sup> Place and “Superior” ratings consistently. In 2009, the Hopkins Jazz Ensemble received a “Unanimous Superior” at the CMEA Jazz Festival and “Superior”, “Outstanding Soloist”, and 1<sup>st</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> graders, and a day trip to Great America for most 7<sup>th</sup> 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.
  - A local CMEA Festival performance on a Saturday in the spring.
  - The only rehearsals outside the school day are for Jazz Ensemble and Full Orchestra, which rehearse before 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.
  - 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 6<sup>th</sup> grade or 7<sup>th</sup> 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!!!!!!**

**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 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. It is strongly recommended, however, that students begin an instrument in either 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](mailto: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 4<sup>th</sup> Grade)***

## **Band\***

### ***4<sup>th</sup> 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.

### ***5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Elementary Intermediate Band***

This class is a continuation of Band, picking up from the end of Beginning Band. It continues on 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 one concert. Classes meet at each elementary school once per week for 1 hour.

### ***6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Advanced Elementary Band***

This class involves 6<sup>th</sup> 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. This is also 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 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. This ensemble performs at least twice per year: once at Ohlone College as part of the Mission Attendance Area Concert with the Hopkins JHS and Mission San Jose HS groups, and one other concert in May. This class meets at Hopkins JHS once per week after school, and is taught by the Director of Bands at Hopkins.

### ***7<sup>th</sup> 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 48 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 at California State University, Hayward in April, and performing at a Music in the Parks Festival at Great America.

### ***8<sup>th</sup> 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 48 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, including the Mission Attendance Area Concert at Ohlone College. This ensemble also participates in the April CMEA Band Festival in Hayward, 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 4 days per week. Also, selected students from Symphonic Band & 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 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grade.*

## *Hopkins JHS Music Class Sequence, Page 2*

### **Orchestra\***

#### ***4<sup>th</sup> 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. Class meets at Hopkins JHS once per week for 1 hour, and involves students from all Mission Attendance Area elementary schools (Chadbourne, Gomes, Mission San Jose, and Mission Valley).

#### ***5<sup>th</sup> 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. Class meets at Hopkins JHS once per week for 1 hour, and involves students from all Mission Attendance Area elementary schools.

#### ***6<sup>th</sup> 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 1 hour, and involves students from all Mission Attendance Area elementary schools.

#### ***7<sup>th</sup> 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 48 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 2 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.

#### ***8<sup>th</sup> 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 48 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, including the Mission Attendance Area Concert at Ohlone College. 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. Students in this class are part of the Hopkins Full Orchestra, where members of Symphonic Band & 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 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grade.*

# *Why Music???*

- I. **Music is a Science.** It is exact, specific and it demands exact acoustics. A conductor's full score is a chart, a graph which indicates frequencies, intensities, volume changes, melody, and harmony all at once and with the most exact control of time.
- II. **Music is Mathematical.** It is rhythmically based on the subdivisions of time into fractions which must be done instantaneously, not worked out on paper.
- III. **Music is a Foreign Language.** Most of the terms are in Italian, German or French; and notation is certainly not English – but a highly developed kind of short hand that uses symbols to represent ideas. The semantics of music is the most complete and universal language.
- IV. **Music is History.** Music usually reflects the environment and times of its creation, often even the country and/or racial feelings.
- V. **Music is Physical Education.** It requires fantastic coordination of the fingers, hands, arms, lips, cheeks, and facial muscles in addition to control of the diaphragmatic, back, stomach and chest muscles, which respond instantly to the sound which the ear hears and the mind interprets.
- VI. **Music Develops Insight and Demands Research.**
- VII. Music is all these things, but most of all, **Music is Art.** It allows a human being to take all these, dry technically boring, (but difficult) techniques and use them to create emotion. That is one thing science cannot duplicate; humanism, feeling, emotion, call it what you want.

That is why we teach music:

Not because we expect you to major in music  
Not because we expect you to play or sing all your life

But - so you will be human  
so you will recognize beauty  
so you will be closer to an infinite beyond this world  
so you will have something to cling to  
so you will have more love, more compassion, more gentleness,  
more good – in short, more life!

(Source: anonymous)



# HOPKINS AFTER-SCHOOL BEGINNING STRING ORCHESTRA

Website: [www.musicathopkins.com](http://www.musicathopkins.com)

## OPEN TO Incoming 4<sup>th</sup> AND 5<sup>th</sup> GRADERS

The Hopkins Music Department will be offering 2 BEGINNING AFTER-SCHOOL STRING ORCHESTRA classes for the 2010-11 school year. These programs will be open to all incoming 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> graders for the 2010-2011 school year who are interested in or are already playing violin, viola, or cello, or string bass.

**The schedule for the After-School String Classes has changed for 2010-2011!** The details are as follows:

### Beginning Orchestra

- 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade **BEGINNING** Orchestra – Open to students at Chadbourne, Gomes, Mission Valley, Mission San Jose  
*\*6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students are no longer allowed in the Beginning String Classes!*
- Starts: Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010
- **Meets every Thursday**
- **3:30-4:30pm** at Hopkins Junior High, Room 23  
OR **4:45-5:45pm** at Hopkins JHS, Room 23
- **No experience necessary – Beginners only on Violin, Viola, Cello**

The Music Department at Hopkins JHS will be hosting the program. The cost of this program is a **one-time \$150 fee** 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. (*Scholarships may be available for students with financial needs.*)

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 1-3 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.

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

Just fill out the form below. Please mail the form to:

*Mr. Greg Conway, Attention: Beginning Elementary Orchestra  
Hopkins Junior High School  
600 Driscoll Rd., Fremont, CA 94539*

### **NOTE: INCLUDE A SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE**

➤ **FORMS DUE BY June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

**PARENTS:** Please include a valid email address so you can receive confirmation that your form was received. You will then receive an enrollment confirmation at a later date. Please write neatly!!!

Please detach and **mail** to the above address by **June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010**. **PRINT NEATLY, PLEASE!!!!**

**Do not turn this in to your teacher – Mail Only – Include a Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope**

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Parent's Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Elementary School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade (in 2010-11): \_\_\_\_\_

Please Select a Class: \_\_\_\_\_ **BEG. ORCHESTRA** \_\_\_\_\_ **BEG. ORCHESTRA** \_\_\_\_\_ **NO PREFERENCE**  
(3:30-4:30 Thurs.) (4:45-5:45 Thurs.) (May increase chances of being accepted)

**Parent's Email Address** \_\_\_\_\_

***\*DO NOT RENT/PURCHASE INSTRUMENTS UNTIL AFTER THE FIRST CLASS MEETING!***

# HOPKINS AFTER-SCHOOL INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED STRING ORCHESTRA PROGRAMS



Website: [www.musicathopkins.com](http://www.musicathopkins.com)  
**OPEN TO Incoming 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, AND 6<sup>th</sup> GRADERS**

The Hopkins Music Department will once again be offering INTERMEDIATE, AND ADVANCED AFTER-SCHOOL STRING ORCHESTRA classes for the 2010-11 school year. These programs will be open to all incoming 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> graders for the 2010-2011 school year who are interested in or are already playing violin, viola, or cello, or string bass.

## Intermediate Orchestra

- 4th, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade **INTERMEDIATE** Orchestra – Open to students at Chadbourne, Gomes, Mission Valley, Mission San Jose
- Starts: Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010
- **Meets every Monday**
- **3:30-4:30pm** at Hopkins Junior High School, Room 23
- Must have AT LEAST 1 OR MORE YEARS experience on **violin, viola, cello, or string bass**

## Advanced Orchestra

- 4th, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade **ADVANCED** Orchestra – Open to students at Chadbourne, Gomes, Mission Valley, Mission San Jose
- Starts: Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010
- **Meets every Monday**
- **4:45-6:00pm** at Hopkins Junior High School, Room 23
- Must have AT LEAST 2 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 \$150 fee** 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. (*Scholarships may be available for students with financial needs.*)

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!

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

Just fill out the form below. Please mail the form to:

*Mr. Greg Conway, Attention: After-School Orchestra  
Hopkins Junior High School  
600 Driscoll Rd., Fremont, CA 94539*

## **NOTE: INCLUDE A SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE**

➤ **FORMS DUE BY June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

**PARENTS:** Please include a valid email address so you can receive confirmation that your form was received. You will then receive an enrollment confirmation at a later date. Please write neatly!!!

Please detach and **mail** to the above address by **June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010. PRINT NEATLY, PLEASE!!!!**

**Do not turn this in to your teacher – Mail Only – Include a Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope**

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Parent's Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Elementary School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade (in 2010-11): \_\_\_\_\_ Instrument (**Int. and Adv. only**) \_\_\_\_\_

Please Select a Class: \_\_\_\_\_ INT. ORCHESTRA \_\_\_\_\_ ADV. ORCHESTRA  
(1 or more years experience) (2 or more years experience)

Parent's Email Address \_\_\_\_\_



# AFTER-SCHOOL ELEMENTARY BAND PROGRAM

## Beginning & Intermediate Bands

Website: [www.musicathopkins.com](http://www.musicathopkins.com); [www.fremont-education.org](http://www.fremont-education.org)

**COME JOIN THE BAND!**



### ATTENTION – ALL INCOMING 4<sup>TH</sup>, 5<sup>TH</sup>, AND 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS!

The Fremont Education Foundation will once again be providing Beginning and Intermediate Band classes at each elementary school during the 2010-2011 school year. These classes are open to all 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade students in the Mission Attendance Area. *These classes are the 1<sup>st</sup> 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.*
- **Elementary Intermediate Band**  
*Designed for students who have 1 year's 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*

**Registration** for these classes will begin on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of school in September through the Fremont Education Foundation website: [www.fremont-education.org](http://www.fremont-education.org). The 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](http://www.fremont-education.org)) in mid-August. The Fremont Education Foundation funds the After-School Bands through your community donations, and receives no money from state, federal, or district funds.

**To receive more information about these classes and the registration process, please mail the form below to:**

*Mr. Greg Conway, Attention: Elementary Band  
 Hopkins Junior High School  
 600 Driscoll Rd., Fremont, CA 94539*

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

➤ **FORMS DUE BY JUNE 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2010**

**YOU MUST include a self-addressed stamped envelope.** More information will be sent to you in August. Thank you!

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Please detach and **mail** to the above address by **JUNE 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2010**. **YOU MUST Include a self-addressed stamped envelope. Do not turn this in to your teacher – Mail Only. PRINT CLEARLY!**

*\*This does not register you for the After-School Band Program\**

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Parent's Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

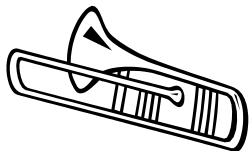
Grade (in 2010-11) \_\_\_\_\_ Instrument (Intermediate Band Only!) \_\_\_\_\_

Elementary School \_\_\_\_\_

Years of experience on your **band** instrument (Intermediate Only!): \_\_\_\_\_ One \_\_\_\_\_ Two or more

Parent's Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

*(Beg/Int Band)*



# HOPKINS ADVANCED ELEMENTARY BAND

Website: [www.musicathopkins.com](http://www.musicathopkins.com)

COME JOIN THE BAND!



**ATTENTION – ALL INCOMING 6<sup>TH</sup> 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 2010-2011 school year. This program is open to **6<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS** who have played their band instrument for at least one year.

- 6<sup>th</sup> grade **Advanced** Elementary Band
- Starts Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010
- **Meets every Thursday**
- 6:15 – 7:30 pm at Hopkins Junior High, Room 23

The classes will be taught by **Mr. Greg Conway**, the Director of Instrumental Music at Hopkins Junior High School. The cost of this program is a **one-time \$150 fee** for the entire year (September-June). This includes the cost of a book for the class as well. Students will need to be transported to and from Hopkins. (*Scholarships may be available to students with financial needs.*)

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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 two concerts during the school year, including one performance at the Ohlone College Smith Center.

**SPACE IS LIMITED!** Students with two years of experience will be accepted first. Also, those students that play **trombone, baritone, tuba, French horn, bass clarinet, tenor saxophone, percussion, and oboe** will HAVE PRIORITY.

Involvement in music benefits the students in many ways. Colleges look highly upon student’s 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.**

Please mail the form to:

*Mr. Greg Conway, Attention: Advanced Elementary Band  
Hopkins Junior High School  
600 Driscoll Rd., Fremont, CA 94539*

➤ **FORMS DUE BY JUNE 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2010**

**YOU MUST include a self-addressed stamped envelope.** More information will be sent to you in August. Thank you!

Please detach and **mail** to the above address by **JUNE 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2010**. **YOU MUST include a self-addressed stamped envelope. Do not turn this in to your teacher – Mail Only. PRINT CLEARLY!**

Student’s Name \_\_\_\_\_ Parent’s Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Elementary School \_\_\_\_\_

Grade (in 2010-11): \_\_\_\_\_ Years of experience on your **band** instrument: \_\_\_\_\_ One \_\_\_\_\_ Two or more

**Parent’s Email Address** \_\_\_\_\_