

# KETTERING MUSIC

## *Exploratory Music – Success Starts Here!*

### **WHAT is it?**

The Kettering City Schools offer a unique and exciting program to all interested 6<sup>th</sup> graders called **Exploratory Music!** This program takes place during the first nine weeks of 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Exploratory music is scheduled during the school day and does not take students out of other classes or after-school programs. Students are introduced to real band and orchestra instruments, taking part in a “hands-on experience” that will help guide them to a successful instrument choice.



### **WHY should my child get involved?**

Music students have the opportunity to develop a life-long love of music and participate in well-known successful programs that annually earn state and national awards. They find themselves in a second-to-none peer group, and studies have found music students maintain higher grade point averages and score higher on standardized tests. According to several other studies, music programs develop traits like creativity, innovation, and teamwork that are prized by future employers and considered imperative to success in our global economy.



### **WHAT Is The Best “Fit” For My Child?**

At the conclusion of the exploratory trial period, each student is interviewed and guided by their music teachers to the best musical “fit” for them. Student interest and musical aptitude are each considered in this mutual decision. Some students may not be recommended for further instrumental study at that time. There are limits on

the number of students that can play certain instruments, based on classroom space, program space, and the number of instruments available.

### **WHAT about CHORUS?**

Chorus programs begin in 7<sup>th</sup> grade in the Kettering schools. 6<sup>th</sup> grade is the only year students are permitted to begin an instrument. Many of the best Kettering student musicians play an instrument and sing. At this time it is not possible to participate in choir and play in band or orchestra in the middle school. However, it is possible at Fairmont High School where many students participate in both.

*“SAT scores of students who took part in music instruction surpassed students with no music training ... students taking music and arts averaged scores that were higher than non music students by 60 points on the verbal section and 43 points on the math section.”*

*Continued...*

*"The very best engineers and technical designers in the Silicon Valley industry are, nearly without exception, practicing musicians."*

### WHAT is the COST?

There is no charge to participate in exploratory. However, following the initial 9-week exploratory program, students who choose to study an instrument in band or orchestra will need to purchase or rent an instrument. Qualifying low-income families may be directed to programs to help obtain a student instrument.

### WHO takes part in Kettering Music groups?

There are currently more than 1,750 students involved in our middle and high school music programs. Many of these students are also involved in a variety of other school activities. There are music students playing football, basketball, cheerleading, bowling, acting in school plays, and participating in student government. Recently the Homecoming King and Queen were both music students.



***Performing in a music group is cool in Kettering!***



### FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions

More detailed information is available on the KCS website performing arts page at [www.ketteringschools.org](http://www.ketteringschools.org)

Additional questions should be directed to the Kettering City Schools Music Office at 499-2647 or Michael Berning, KCS Music Coordinator at [Michael.berning@ketteringschools.org](mailto:Michael.berning@ketteringschools.org)

### HOW do I enroll my child?

Simply return this enrollment form to your child's elementary music teacher or school office and your child will be enrolled in the program and ready to start exploring music next fall!

Forms can also be mailed to:

Kettering Music – 3301 Shroyer Road, Kettering, Ohio 45429

*"The College Board identifies the arts as one of the six basic academic subject areas students should study in order to succeed in college."*

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please register my student for 6<sup>th</sup> grade exploratory music

I do not wish my student to be enrolled in exploratory music

Elementary school your student is currently attending \_\_\_\_\_

Middle school your student will attend \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature X \_\_\_\_\_



**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM BEFORE MAY 1ST**