



2022 Northwestern Middle School Music Department
Band, Chorus, Orchestra
www.NorthwesternMSMusic.org

Dear Sixth Grade Students and Parents,

We are so excited that you will be a Northwestern Middle School student this Fall! There are wonderful opportunities available through the Northwestern Music Department- **Band, Chorus, and Orchestra**. Our music program was the Georgia Music Educators Association **MUSIC PROGRAM OF THE YEAR** in 2022! There is NO experience required to sign up for a music class. We will teach you everything you need to know to be successful in your chosen area. It won't be long before you are sharing your musical skills with the school community! Please visit our website at www.northwesternmsmusic.org to learn more about our programs.

Band, Orchestra and Chorus classes are the first of potentially seven years' worth of music education, and a lifetime of enjoyment. Participation in the music department is a yearlong commitment. We meet daily during the school day and there are only three required evening performances each year. In addition to concerts, music students get to participate in numerous music department field trips and other fun events like MUSICON! You can choose to take TWO music classes, and all three areas wear the same uniform. Please send an email to both directors if you wish to double in music.

The *beginning* of the sixth grade is the only time students can begin instrumental instruction. Music classes, PE/health, and connections classes are taught for sixth graders during 7th and 8th periods. The music class chosen fills one of these periods in the schedule for the year. The other period will rotate through the other connections or PE/health classes each 9 weeks. If students choose two music classes, those will fill their 7th and 8th periods for the year, and students will not have PE/health or connections.

Students in Band or Orchestra may be asked to supply their own instruments but there are some school-owned instruments available for those with need. Some larger instruments (cello/bass/tuba/etc.) will be available to use at school. More information about concert dates, specific supplies, where to rent instruments, and performance uniforms will be distributed and explained at the start of the respective classes.

Below are brief descriptions of each area in the music department.

The **Band** includes the woodwind (bassoon, clarinet, flute, oboe, and saxophone), brass (baritone, French horn, trumpet, trombone or tuba), and percussion (e.g. bells, marimba, snare) families of instruments. Mrs. Naughton Band director, will help you identify your best choice of instrument. Band students will have opportunities such as Honor Band and All State Band. Not sure if Band is right for you? Visit this site for help: <https://www.bepartofthemusic.org/bpotb/index.html>

The **Chorus** gives students a chance to develop their voice in a group setting while building musical skills. There are also many opportunities for solos and other activities such as All-State Chorus and Honor Choruses. Chorus students perform a variety of musical styles including traditional choral, jazz, classical, musical theatre and pop. Ms. Grant, the Choral director, will welcome you into the program no matter your level of experience. Questions about Chorus? Visit the Chorus webpage! www.NorthwesternMSMusic.org/chorus

The **Orchestra** is comprised of the stringed instrument family. These include the violin - the smallest and highest pitched instrument in the string family; the viola - a mellow midrange instrument slightly larger than the violin; the cello - a rich sounding lower register instrument; and the string bass - the largest and deepest in the string family. All stringed instruments come in multiple sizes to fit any sized student. Mrs. Champion, the Orchestra director, will introduce all four instruments to students and assist them in choosing one. Not sure which one to choose? Visit this site for help: <https://www.bepartofthemusic.org/bpoto/index.html>

Questions? Ready to sign up? Please contact: Mrs. Clayman, Orchestra- ClaymanE@fultonschools.org
Ms. Grant, Chorus- GrantS@fultonschools.org and Mrs. Naughton, Band- NaughtonC@fultonschools.org

Parents: Please visit our website www.NorthwesternMSMusic.org
and use the links to sign your child up for music class, or send an email to the director.
[Sign me up for the Band!](#) [Sign me up for the Chorus!](#) [Sign me up for the Orchestra!](#)



THE DEADLINE TO SEND E-MAIL TO SIGN UP IS WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16 by noon.

Northwestern Middle School Music Department Teachers



Elaine Clayman will be starting her 11th year in public education at Northwestern Middle School this year. She taught at Holcomb Bridge Middle School previously. She has experience beyond middle school with the Music and Arts after school program focusing on elementary school beginners. Elaine started her career with the Peggy Still School of music (Later North Fulton School of Music) teaching private lessons of all ages and abilities. While there she helped create a continuous string curriculum for students to follow ensuring success. Elaine is currently serving as the GMEA district 5 orchestra department chair where she assists with all GMEA orchestra events and coordinates with other GMEA leaders. When Elaine isn't teaching she is spending time with her husband and son (Sylvester)

Ms. Grant came to Northwestern as Choral Director in 2012 from New York City where she lived and worked as a freelance musician and music teacher. Prior to her time in New York, Ms. Grant taught Choral Music at Haynes Bridge Middle School and Centennial High School as well as private voice and piano at The Peggy Still School of Music, now known as the North Fulton School of Music. She has also taught in Fayette County and Lawton, Oklahoma. Ms. Grant holds a Master's Degree in Music Education from the University of Georgia where she also finished her undergraduate work after attending Shorter College for 2 years. In addition to teaching Choral music, Ms. Grant gives solo performances, accompanies, and serves as a guest clinician for honor choirs around the Southeast. This year she has been asked to serve as the Honor Choir clinician for her own District 5. Ms. Grant and the Northwestern Eighth Grade Chorus have been selected to perform for the annual Georgia Music Educators Association In-Service Conference in Athens, Georgia in January of 2024. The NMS 8th grade chorus last performed for the GMEA Conference in 2014. Ms. Grant is a former member of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus and has also served as the Georgia Music Educators' Association District 5 Choral Chair. Ms. Grant currently serves as the Fulton County Schools Fine Arts Support Teacher for Middle School Chorus.



Mrs. Christy Naughton is the Northwestern Band Director and will begin her 30th year of teaching Fall 2022! A native of Jonesboro, Georgia received her Bachelors of Music Education degree from the University of South Carolina and her Masters of Music Education degree from the University of Southern Mississippi. Previously, Mrs. Naughton was the Director of Bands at Arnall Middle School in Coweta County from 1996-2001 and East Cobb Middle School in Cobb County from 2001-2004. Under her direction the Bands earned superior and excellent ratings at the District's Large Group Performance Evaluation as well as the Southern Star Music Festival. The Northwestern Middle School's Symphonic Bands won the Southern Star Music Festival 'Sweepstakes' Award in 2005, 2008, 2010, 2012, and 2019. In 2014, the NMS 8th Grade Band was chosen as featured ensemble, opening the University of Georgia's Midfest Band Clinic. For this upcoming year, the NMS 8th Grade Band was selected to perform at the Reinhardt University MS Band Clinic in Waleska, GA. Membership in professional organizations include the Music Educators National Conference, Georgia Music Educators Association and Phi Beta Mu. Mrs. Naughton has served GMEA as Honor Band and All-State District organizers and has worked on staff with Encore! Band Camps. Mrs. Naughton has also served as a flute clinician throughout Georgia. She and her husband Dennis reside in Woodstock, Georgia and are the proud parents of their 19 year old son, Matthew, 26 year old son, Alex and 29 year old daughter, Marilyn.