

## Why Music?

### **What kind of music do you like?**

Everyone has a favorite kind of music. **Music connects with everyone on the deepest level.**

Through the study of music, students can evolve to a place where, more than just “liking” or “enjoying” listening to music, they are interpreting, analyzing, expressing themselves, and connecting with their peers through **MAKING** music!

**Music is Universal!**

## Why Now?

### **Why join the music department at Montford MS?**

Participation in Montford Middle School’s music department is a wonderful way to make the transition from elementary to middle school. The band, chorus and orchestra at Montford will be the largest, most visible, and most active groups on campus. You will already have a place to belong from day one! You will also become a part of Leon County band, chorus, and orchestra which is the greatest tradition of musical excellence in the state of Florida!

## What are the benefits?

### **Students benefit from being involved in music in many ways!**

#### **Academically**

Students who actively participate in music education **show improved test scores in reading and math.** Music students are engaged daily in reading of notation and lyrics, and they use music vocabulary for interpreting the scores. These music-reading skills help develop and reinforce the text-reading skills of tracking, fluency, and vocabulary.

Students develop their understanding of symbol interpretation, fractions, and pattern recognition through reading and interpreting musical symbols. IN addition, music students study historical periods and world music for large groups and small ensembles. They explore the science of sound as well. **Music is academic!**

#### **Socially**

Students at the middle school level strongly desire to be a part of a group. In music classes, the students become a “family unit” through working together to create outstanding performances. Music classes teach mutual respect, constructive criticism, and the skill of PERFORMANCE. These skills carry over to other areas of a students life! Students will have increased confidence, self-assurance, and self-esteem in their interaction with other students and adults as a result of their participation in music. We see our students develop strong

friendships and mutual respect through their involvement with music. Students learn to use their talents to the best of their ability, thus giving them confidence to try new things. **Music creates connections!**

#### **Physically**

Music students increase fine motor skills and dexterity in instrumental classes while using gross motor skills in choreography in vocal classes. Performing and moving in a non-traditional way gives students a chance to express themselves. Many students find their music class to be a physical “release” during the school day. The work music students do is hands-on and active. Students don’t sit in desks and work with paper and pencil in music class; music students move, play, sing, dance, perform, and create in an energetic way.

**Music is fun!**

#### **Emotionally**

Expression of one’s opinions and feelings is an important developmental phase for the middle school student. The music class is the perfect place to encourage creativity and allow emotional freedom. Music creates a wide variety of emotional responses in people. A beautiful song can bring tears to your eyes, a Latin beat can make you want to get up and dance, and a comical music-theater sketch can make you laugh! Music classes create an environment where students not only feel these emotions, but explore them and create them. Creative freedom allows students to feel powerful emotionally. Students love to come to school and participate in a positive manner when they know their ideas and feelings are respected and valued.

**Music has heart!**

## How do I join?

Students have several options for beginning their music studies at Montford Middle School! When choosing classes just sign up for beginning band, strings, or chorus as an elective. There is no previous experience needed. We are here to teach you and get you going. No audition, just sign up!

## It's for life!

Whereas some classes are for a semester or a year, music is for life! Most students who get involved in music at the middle school level continue on at the high school level and take those skills with them into adulthood. Music is fun, and it provides students with opportunities to travel perform and show off their talents and abilities like no other subject area! **Music students are the best students in the school;** these students grow in self-discipline, self-esteem, work ethic, and responsibility as a result of their commitment to the group, and they discover the joy of performance and self-expression in the process!!!

## Remember—NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED!

You don't have to have any experience in music or performance to be a part of the Montford Middle School music department. WE will teach you everything you need to know! EVERYONE can make music. Remember, in music, NO ONE SITS ON THE BENCH!

## Can I do other stuff too?

At Montford Middle School, we want our students to enjoy as many experiences as possible to find their "thing". Students will not only be allowed but encouraged to participate in music, athletics, and everything else. Our faculty is all on the same team. We will work together to make sure our kids can "be all they can be". So yes, you can play the tuba and play football!

# Choose Music!

## Orchestra

# MONTFORD CHORUS

MONTFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL  
**MUSTANG BAND**  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

