



Dean Rusk Middle School Music

C. Lloyd McDonald, Band Director

Joseph Salter, Chorus Director

Tim Christian, Orchestra Director

Dear Parents and Students:

Greetings from the Dean Rusk Middle School Music Program! We are excited about your child coming to DRMS!

The Dean Rusk Middle School Music Program provides many excellent opportunities for students to explore and enjoy music-making. Students in our music program learn to play an instrument or sing, give concert performances, take exciting trips, and have a lot of fun! No experience playing an instrument or singing? Not a problem – we will teach you everything you need to know to be successful in our music classes!

Why should a student join a music group? Many studies have shown that music education increases early brain development and improves students' overall academic performance. Current research shows that music:

- Enhances higher brain function
- Improves reading and math performance
- Raises IQ and SAT scores
- Teaches the habit of excellence
- Builds teamwork skills and enhances cooperation
- Provides important experiences, such as self-paced learning and mental concentration
- Prepares children for the future

Dean Rusk has much to offer its young musicians. Music classes meet separately for each grade during the school day. Advanced academic classes, cheerleading, sports, and other activities do not interfere with music in middle school. As a matter of fact, most of our band, chorus, and orchestra students are involved in advanced academic classes and extra activities! Music classes are year-long courses, while other Connections classes change for each nine weeks. Unless you choose to enroll in two music classes, you will still be able to take the other Connections classes such as Business and Technology, Physical Education, Art, and Family and Consumer Sciences.

BEGINNING BAND

In Beginning Band, we spend the first several weeks learning about music – studying the fundamentals of music and trying different instruments of the woodwind, brass, and percussion instrument families. After each student has selected an instrument, we begin learning how to play the instruments. Sixth grade band students have several performance opportunities during the year, including a “Cookie” concert in the fall, a holiday concert, a spring concert, and Solo & Ensemble Festival.

SIXTH GRADE CHORUS

The Sixth Grade Chorus at DRMS begins the year by learning engaging new songs, playing fun music games, introducing music literacy, and learning the basics of choral singing. There are numerous performance activities throughout the year, including Fall and Winter concerts, Honor Choruses, performance evaluations, and a “POPS” concert in the Spring.

STRING ORCHESTRA

At the beginning of the year, students in the String Orchestra study the instruments of the orchestra and select an instrument to begin playing – violin, viola, cello, or double bass. Students learn to read music while playing different styles of music, including favorite movie tunes and popular music! The String Orchestra gives several performances throughout the year.

To register for the DRMS Band, Chorus, or Orchestra, use this link or QR code to complete the online form:

<https://forms.gle/BDG2VLgaSvkvVfXn8>



If you have any questions about the music programs at DRMS, feel free to contact us by email. Looking forward to a great year of music making in 2021-22!

Go Chiefs!

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