



August 26, 2021

Dear Junction Families,

My name is Adam Dempsey, and I am the new music teacher at Junction School this year. I am originally from the Washington D.C. area, but I married a U-Prep graduate and am happy to join your community. Below you will find information about this year's musical offerings.

4th Grade:

This year, we will begin learning to play the **recorder**. Students will be assigned a cleaned and sanitized recorder to use during weekly music classes. If your child would like to practice the recorder at home, you can consider purchasing a recorder. I recommend the Yamaha YRS-20 or the Yamaha YRS-24B, but any baroque soprano recorder will do. We will be using the Recorder Karate method, which I believe will be exciting for your child.

5th Grade:

Because most fifth graders did not learn the **recorder** last year, we will be starting with the recorder and transitioning to **band instruments** (trumpet, trombone, baritone, flute, clarinet, saxophone, and percussion) in classes that take place three times per week. Please read about recorders in the above section of this letter. Once students have demonstrated a firm grasp of basic musical concepts on the recorder, we will begin transitioning to band instruments. At that time, I will recommend that families consider renting a band instrument from www.nemc.com, where a quality band instrument can be rented for as low as \$22/month. Junction School owns some instruments that are available for students to use, but the quality and state of repair of these instruments is not always the best. Band students may be asked to purchase some additional materials such as reeds, valve oil, and/or drum sticks.

Junior High:

There are **two band electives** that will meet four times per week. There is a 6th Grade Band elective and a combined 7th/8th Grade band. After demonstrating a firm grasp of musical concepts, students will begin/continue learning how to play band instruments (trumpet, trombone, baritone, flute, clarinet, saxophone, and percussion). Please read about renting and borrowing instruments in the above section of this letter.

I look forward to this year with your student(s), and I hope to see you at upcoming concerts (dates TBA). Additionally, stay tuned for information about **after school activities such as guitar class and rock band**.

Sincerely,
Adam Dempsey

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Dempsey", is located at the bottom of the page.