



Music Matters!
Parents Advocating for the Performing Arts in Western Albemarle County Schools



May 2009

To: Families of Students Entering Henley in Fall '09
 From: Music Matters
 Re: All the Reasons to Take Music in 6th Grade

As you may have heard, Henley's schedule is changing next year. If you don't know what this really means for your child, you are not alone. The elementary school years have been easy when it comes to class scheduling. There's basically a one-size-fits-all approach to the school day that endures. Not so in Middle School.

Henley's schedule will be alien to most parents who grew up with a traditional 7-8 period day. At Henley, classes are 90 minutes long, and there are only four classes each day. When these longer classes are scheduled every other day (or "blocked"), there is enough time to build in music, foreign language, art, and other electives, educating the whole child. But, little-by-little, these 1½ hour classes are being taught on a daily basis. (This is often referred to as the "double block").

The bottom line is: As required 90-minute classes fill up the daily blocks, fewer Henley students have the opportunity to take music AND foreign language during their tenure in middle school, denying our children a world-class education.

What can you do in order to educate, enrich, and promote your whole child?
You can sign up your student for music at Henley this month by calling or visiting the Henley Guidance Department at 823-5040.



This is the perfect time in life to join band or orchestra to learn an instrument or sing in the choir. *If not now...then when?* Music has many benefits at this time in your student's life, instilling a gift that cannot be easily acquired down the road. Research shows that music advances intellectual and social development, helps boost test scores, bolsters confidence, fosters teamwork, enables performing in front of an audience, and helps adolescents' master a wide array of skills for lifelong learning.



Please guide your child at this critical time as they enter middle school.

SIGN YOUR RISING 6TH GRADER UP FOR MUSIC - BAND, CHOIR, OR ORCHESTRA - AT HENLEY!

Take advantage of this one-time opportunity your student has to use his or her single elective in 6th grade to participate in Henley's award-winning music program. Students who choose to take music now, will preserve their elective choices come 7th and 8th grades. Those students who do not take music now, could face a less-flexible schedule focused nearly exclusively on required classes.

If you have any questions, go to the Music Matters website at www.albemarlecounty.org
 Get the word out that *Music Matters*...SIGN the petition at <http://www.gopetition.com/online/27032.html>

Henley Choir



Henley Jazz Band





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Henley Music Offerings

Band:

- Beginning Band (6th grade)
- Concert Band (7th grade)
- Symphonic Band (8th grade)
- Marching Band (8th grade)
- Jazz Ensemble (8th grade by audition)

Upon entering 6th grade, my parents made me choose an instrument. I reluctantly took french horn. I was actually good at it! I switched to trumpet. Now I play in the WAHS jazz band and march at all the football games. Student life wouldn't be nearly as good as it is without band!

MP, Henley Class 2008



Choir:

- Henley Choir
- Morning Singers

Orchestra:

- Beginning Strings
- Advanced Strings

Orchestra enables me to speak a universal language. And the more I learn, the more challenging and inspiring orchestra becomes. Community orchestra has enabled me to make new friends while sharing a talent most adults I meet only wish they had learned at my age!

AH, Henley Class 2007

Honestly, I would have hated my middle and high school careers at Henley and WAHS had it not been for the music programs. Music helps people learn a talent to be proud of!

ES, Henley Class 2003

Music pre-requisites and skill requirements

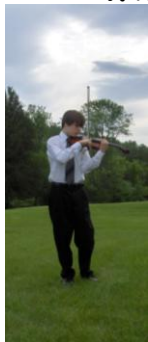
Anyone can play music at Henley. No previous music experience on any instrument or vocals is required. Students will progress from basic skills to performance grade music in their three years at Henley.

Students are given the opportunity to perform with select music groups outside of Henley, including Honors and All District Band, Jazz Band, Choir, Jazz Choir, and Orchestra. Try-outs are an education in and of themselves. Opportunities like this allow your child to join with students throughout our region, mastering new music with a guest conductor. These events culminate in a special community performance.



Henley competes musically throughout the county and state. Historically, Henley has done extremely well getting stellar grades from tough judges. Music is a “core” class disguised as an elective. **Music rocks!!**

What students learn from music instruction



- ♫ Play a new instrument
- ♫ Read music
- ♫ Develop a feeling for musical expression
- ♫ Perform in front of a group
- ♫ Participate in an ensemble
- ♫ Embrace the love of music
- ♫ Acquire the building blocks needed to participate in music throughout their lives
- ♫ Cultural awareness
- ♫ And much, much more!



Playing music is a special joy that helps me mentally and physically. But, creating something someone else can also enjoy is, perhaps, the greatest treat. The feeling I get during that creative process transcends the ordinary life experiences we all share.

JW, Senior Center Second Wind Band

“Music is one of the ways we make sense of our lives, one of the ways in which we express feelings when we have no words, a way for us to understand things with our hearts when we cannot with our minds.”
 – Karl Paulnack, Director Boston Conservatory