

# Frost Middle School Band and Orchestra Program

Dear incoming seventh-grader and family,

My name is Michael Rais, and I am the director of bands and orchestras at Frost Middle School. I have been honored and privileged to teach here for the past 14 years for Frost Middle School and Livonia Public Schools. It is that time for your student to sign up for classes and prepare for middle school. It is an exciting time and can also be a little scary growing up and transitioning to middle school. Students did not have the opportunity this past school year to play an instrument because of the pandemic. Next school year (2021-2022) I will be starting students from the very start. So don't worry feeling like you may be behind in learning. You have been learning all kinds of things when it comes to music from your teachers.

Being a part of an ensemble is much different than any other class. You get to work with many different students in a team setting. Everyone plays an important role in our music classes as we all depend on each other to bring the music to life. We all play an important part in our team. The ability to make music daily is such a wonderful feeling. For many of our students, this is one of their most favorite parts of the day to come to class to be creative, make music, make new friends, become lifelong learners of music, and grow as human beings. This is an opportunity to become a part of something bigger than ourselves.

Now is the time to join the Frost Middle School band or orchestra program. Our program is like other subject areas, which we build from elementary and continue our skills throughout high school. Seventh-grade year students are where it will start for next year when students will learn how to play an instrument, learn to read music notation and rhythms.

Our students in the Frost Middle School band and orchestra program are still able to take other electives. We do need to be creative with our scheduling since we are a full-year class, students that take band and orchestra delay the other electives to 8th grade. The other electives are 7th and 8th graders mixed as the classes can be taken either year. Many of our students take music and the other electives or take music and a foreign language. The other electives are only a semester, once they are taken, there isn't a part two. The other electives are also offered at the high school level as well, to whereas the music classes build upon each other year to year.

For more information about our program, scheduling, and joining visit our website at [www.fmsmusic.org](http://www.fmsmusic.org) visit our page link for "*Incoming 7th-grade students*". I will be hosting a Zoom meeting for students and parents to answer any further questions you may have about the music program and give information about instrumentation on **Tuesday, April 6, 2021, at 7:00 pm** on Zoom. I will have a sign-up Google Form on the "*Incoming 7th-grade students*" page for our Zoom event. I am looking forward to next school year to make music with all of you!

Sincerely,

Michael Rais  
Director of Bands and Orchestras  
Frost Middle School  
[mrals@livoniapublicschools.org](mailto:mrals@livoniapublicschools.org)  
[www.fmsmusic.org](http://www.fmsmusic.org)