

**Track and Field**—This elective is an introduction to the sport. Students will be informed of the different events that make up a middle school track meet and how to score a meet. Basic techniques of field and running as well as shot put and long jump will be covered. Running events include the 60 yard dash, 100 yard dash, 220 yard run, 440 yard run, 880 yard run, and various relays.

**Volleyball**—At this level students are introduced to the history, terminology, safety, equipment, scoring, and basic skills of the game. Skills development through the use of drills, relays, and lead-up games are part of this elective. Students will have opportunities for team situations.

## **Instrumental Music**

### *Band*

**Beginning Band (Y)**—Emphasis is on the acquisition of basic musical skills as students learn to play a brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument. Band classes prepare several concert compositions that are performed for an audience. Students should anticipate some after-school practices and evening performances.

**Magnet Symphonic Band (Y)**—*For students with band experience; advanced 6<sup>th</sup> grade students require recommendation by the band director and/or audition.* (Formerly called Intermediate Band) Learn the fundamentals on an individual instrument! To perform as a band using elements of music such as style, dynamics, tempo, timbre, balance, blend, and articulation. Learn to work together as a collaborative ensemble to achieve both individual and group success.

**Magnet Concert Band (Y)**—*Available for students in 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade. Audition and/or band director recommendation required.* Technical drills, scale studies, rhythm studies, and sight reading exercises are used to advance the student's skills, knowledge, and reading ability in music. A wide variety of band literature is studied to give the students experience in various musical styles. Students should anticipate some after-school practices and evening performances.

**Magnet Jazz Band (Y)**—*Audition and/or band director recommendation required.* (Formerly called Jazz/Rock Band) Jazz Band is an auditioned ensemble providing students an opportunity to learn and perform music from four different styles in a big band setting—swing, rock, ballad, and Latin/Afro Cuban. Students will also explore beginning concepts of jazz improvisations, knowledge of chords and jazz history.

### *Strings Orchestra*

**Beginning Strings (Y)**—Beginning Strings is a course designed for students who are interested in playing a string instrument for the first time such as violin, viola, cello, or bass. Previous experience is not needed for this class. This course will cover basic fundamentals of rhythm, note reading, posture, watching the conductor, bowing, pizzicato, and learning how to perform as a group. Appropriate use of musical terms, dynamic markings, and the parts and care of stringed instruments are emphasized. Students prepare a number of concert selections that are performed for an audience. Students should anticipate some after-school practices and evening performances.

**Intermediate Strings (Y)**—*Beginning Strings or private instruction required.* The curriculum for Intermediate Strings is a continuation of Beginning Strings, or for students who enters middle school with previous experience. Solo and orchestral literature from a variety of time periods and cultures is studied in this class. Emphasis is on varied bowing, ear training, identifying and playing various styles, and a deeper understanding of musical terms. Students prepare a number of concert selections that are performed for an audience. Students should anticipate some after-school practices and evening performances.

**Magnet Honors Orchestra (Y)**—*Teacher recommendation and/or audition required.* Advanced strings students should have at least 2 years of orchestral instruction in order to take this course. Students will continue to master scales and technique. Extended ranges, shifting, and further study of good intonation are emphasized along with in-depth study and interpretation. Students are encouraged to perform on an individual basis and participate in small or large ensembles. Students prepare a number of concert selections that are performed for an audience. Students should anticipate some after-school practices and evening performances.

#### *Other Instrumental Courses*

**Guitar**—This beginning level course introduces the student to all the fundamentals of playing this popular stringed instrument. Students additionally learn basic sight reading and are encouraged to begin composing their own pieces, creating small group ensembles for improvisation and performances of current, created, and improvised pieces as well as participating in classroom performances.

**Percussion Ensemble: Sounds of the World**—Students will study and perform on a variety of percussion instruments from around the globe and demonstrate their understanding of different styles of music which may include pieces from Latin American, African, and Asian cultures. Students in this course gain an understanding of the relationships between music to the arts, history, and culture of diverse groups and countries. Students will increase their ability to read and notate music, compose and arrange music, and evaluate music and musical performances. Students will demonstrate their skills through a variety of performance opportunities including hand drumming and drum circles.

#### **Magnet Piano**

- **Level I**—Students will learn to read the musical staff in treble and bass clefs and basic rhythmic notation in 2/4, 3/4, and 4/4 meters. They will learn to match the letter names of keys with the staff and learn five finger patterns in the keys of C and G as well as corresponding chords in each position. Students will also learn melodies in middle C position. Students will initially learn with the aid of a Level I Adult Method piano course text book, but may advance to additional easy classics, show tunes, and pop pieces during the course. Parents are invited to a final recital at the end of the course.
- **Level II**—*Level I or 2 years private instruction required.* Students will continue building on the skills learned in Level I. Students in Level II advance to playing some of the major and minor scales with correct finger position. They also learn compound meters, playing at least one piece in 6/8 time. Students continue working in the Level I Adult Methods piano course, but may progress to more advanced classics, show tunes, and pop pieces throughout the course. Parents are invited to attend a final recital at the end of the course.