

**Bigelow Middle School**  
**Grade 6**  
**Elective Course Descriptions**  
**2019/2020**

Please also read the flyer, "Important Information for Students Entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade Who Are Interested in Enrolling in Band or Orchestra"

**Band**

**Grade 6**

**Ms. Trimpey**

The Concert Band is open to all wind, brass, and percussion students in the 6th grade. The rehearsals concentrate on the fundamentals of music and playing in an ensemble, as well as concert selections. The Concert Band performs at the Winter Concert and the Spring Concert. This is not for beginners; members of the Concert Band should have been active members of their 5th grade band. Band members will receive a letter grade on their report cards. They are expected to have completed Book I in the elementary school. Concert Band members are expected to take lessons on their instruments. Members of the Concert Band are invited to audition for the All-City Band. Drummers should be able to read treble clef music and be able to play scales on the xylophone. Drummers will need a metronome and practice pad for home practice, as well as a stick bag with their own snare drum sticks, timpani mallets, brushes, and xylophone mallets. Please contact Ms. Trimpey if you have questions (Amanda\_Trimpey@newton.k12.ma.us).

**Orchestra**

**Grades 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Ms. Trimpey**

The Orchestra is open to all string players. Members of the Orchestra should have been active members of their elementary school ensemble, and are expected to take regular lesson on their instrument. The Orchestra plays a wide variety of music, from classical symphonies to fiddle tunes. Violinists rotate among the first and second sections, and the higher positions are studied. There are many solo opportunities in rehearsals, and the orchestra performs at the Winter and Spring Concerts. Students are expected to practice and take lessons regularly. Orchestra members will receive a letter grade on their report cards. Members of the Orchestra are encouraged to audition for the All-City Orchestra. Please contact Ms. Trimpey if you have questions (Amanda\_Trimpey@newton.k12.ma.us).

**Chorus**

**Grade 6**

**Ms. Alberts**

All sixth graders are welcome to join the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Chorus. Students learn a varied repertoire of music from diverse cultures and eras, including music by some of the leading contemporary vocal arrangers. The chorus performs at our Winter and Spring Concerts. Students interested in auditioning for the All-City Chorus must be members of the chorus. If you are interested in participating in the musical production in March, you are encouraged to join Chorus, Band, or Orchestra. All that is required to become a member is a willingness to perform and sing great music! Students interested in both band and chorus should speak to Ms. Alberts in the fall. Please contact Ms. Alberts if you have questions. (Jaime\_Alberts@newton.k12.ma.us)