



Dear <Parent Name>,

The days and weeks of the school year are flying by and before you know it, your 5th grader will be in middle school. Sixth grade brings many new experiences and opportunities for your child at South Middle School. I want to take a moment to tell you about the band and orchestra programs and invite your child to try the instruments.

As a (soon-to-be) sixth grader, you and your child have the opportunity to join the Ray-Pec South Wolves music family. Band and orchestra are advanced music classes and have developed a reputation for excellence. The Raymore-Peculiar instrumental music department is recognized as one of Missouri's best school music programs.

When your child joins instrumental music at their middle school, they will become part of a family of musicians, and instantly have a great group of friends.

In the next few weeks, we will host an event for your child to try the different band and orchestra instruments. We will have experts on hand to guide your child through the process to help determine instrument fit so your child is successful. It is important to attend one of the Try the Instrument Nights if choosing band or orchestra. With the large number of students, we must create class schedules based on instrument selections.

Please look through this packet for some very important upcoming dates and events. You won't want to miss out on getting started in our award-winning and family-oriented music department.

Sincerely,

Dillon Jarrett  
South Middle School Band Director  
[dillon.jarrett@raypec.org](mailto:dillon.jarrett@raypec.org)

Kymbre Resler  
South Middle School Orchestra Director  
[kymbre.resler@raypec.org](mailto:kymbre.resler@raypec.org)

WELCOME TO THE AWARD WINNING

2020 RAYMORE-PECULIAR

South Middle School



*Music* Department



*The journey begins here...*

In 6th Grade, you can join the beginning orchestra or band, and start your journey of becoming a part of the music team. Our Music Department is one of the most successful organizations in our school district. You will learn to play an instrument, but more importantly you will be part of a team that works, performs, and has fun together!

**TRY THE INSTRUMENT NIGHTS**

Tuesday, March 3, 2020 • 6:00-8:00 pm • East Middle School OR

Thursday, March 5, 2020 • 6:00-8:00 pm • South Middle School

**INSTRUMENT RENTAL NIGHT**

Tuesday, April 14, 2020 • 5:30-7:30 pm • South Middle School

*The journey continues here...*

When you finish your musical journey at middle school, a world of opportunities will open for you at Ray-Pec High School. Out-of-state travel, music festivals, and scholarship opportunities will be available to you. For example, the Ray-Pec Music Department has recently performed in locations around the country, such as Hawaii, Nashville, and Chicago.

Having a common background in instrumental music makes the transition to high school much easier for students. The RPHS music department takes pride in putting good character first and consistently strives to make excellence a habit in all facets of the program.



*Join today!*

WELCOME TO THE AWARD WINNING

**2020 RAYMORE-PECULIAR**

**South Middle School**



*Music* Department



*The journey begins here...*

**RAY-PEC SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL WOLVES**

*Get ready for the experience of a lifetime!*



Your future sixth grade student is invited to join the Middle School Band and Orchestra program and to start the journey of becoming an advanced musician. The bands and orchestra are some of the most successful organizations in the school district and teach students to perform on a musical instrument. But more importantly, they learn the essentials of teamwork, self-motivation,

self-discipline, and social skills that prove to be effective in any career, sport, or activity.

During the first year of band or orchestra, students meet in like-instrument groups to allow members to focus on the basic fundamentals of their instruments. It also allows the director to give more instrument-specific instruction and individual attention during the important early stages.

**T**he Raymore-Peculiar Middle School and High School Bands and Orchestra attract some of the most talented students at Ray-Pec. Drive, determination, endurance and willingness to persevere are essential elements of these elite organizations.

The Raymore-Peculiar Bands and Orchestra are not only award-winning performance ensembles, but most importantly, they are a family of friends, parents and educators who are committed to guiding the members to reach their personal potential while providing an experience of a lifetime.

*The journey to become a part of these award-winning groups starts now!*

Students in the first year will be encouraged to choose from these instruments:



### *Common Questions:*

• **HOW MUCH MONEY WILL THIS COST?**

Fortunately NOT MUCH! Sure, it will cost SOME money, but there are several reputable music stores in the metro-area who sell quality instruments and offer great service. In fact, the music stores even offer an instrument rental program.

• **WILL BEING IN MUSIC AFFECT MY CHILD'S GRADES?**

YES. Research shows that participation in band or orchestra will actually help your child's grades. On average, students who participate in school music organizations score 89 points higher on standardized tests like the SAT than students without musical coursework.

• **WILL MY CHILD HAVE TO GIVE UP ANY OTHER ACTIVITIES FOR BAND?**

NO! Not only is participation in other school activities possible, it is highly ENCOURAGED!! Many students participate in activities outside of their school day, including clubs, sports, and music. Similar to athletics and academic classes, students do need to spend some time at home practicing in order to find optimum success.

• **WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?**

Band and orchestra are great opportunities to be a part of a school organization. It also provides the chance to meet new friends and feel a part of a productive group in a new school.