

METEA VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

1801 N. Eola Road

Aurora, Illinois 60502

phone 630.375.5900

fax 630.375.5901

Principal: Dr. Darrell Echols • Assistant Principals: Dr. Quynh Harvey, Laura James-Schrader, Kimberly Maloney • Athletic Director: Daniel DeBruycker



Dear 8th Grade Musician ,

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you into the Mustang Community and Music Department at Metea Valley High School. The music department is having another outstanding year and we are looking forward to continued success next year. The students and music faculty are all very excited to welcome the Class of 2023 to Metea Valley. We hope that you will strongly consider continuing your music education and offer you a **personal invitation** to enroll in the Metea Valley High School instrumental music program.

We have several musical opportunities for students at Metea Valley. Next year will bring even more exciting opportunities: Seven curricular bands (Concert Band, Concert Winds, Symphonic Band, Symphonic Winds, Wind Symphony, and Wind Ensemble), six curricular choirs (Cecilian Singers, Concert Choir, Bass Chorus, Treble Choir, and Varsity Singers, Chamber Singers), seven curricular orchestras (Concert Orchestra, Concert Strings Symphonic Orchestras, Symphonic Strings, Chamber Orchestra, and Chamber Strings), Music Theory and Music Theory AP. Students enrolled in one of Metea Valley's music ensembles may also participate in the Marching Mustangs, Pep Band, Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Orchestra, Jazz Band, Jazz Lab Band, Jazz Combos, Steel Bands, Percussion Ensembles, Recorder Consort, Pit Orchestra, Metea Valley Symphony Orchestra, United Voices, Jazz Choir, Girls Vocal Ensemble, Musical Theater, Mustang Strings, Cello Choir, Tri-M Honor Society, and various chamber ensembles.

Students entering high school are often faced with a large number of decisions about courses and activities. In addition, it is not uncommon for an entering freshman to be apprehensive about his or her ability to participate in various high school programs. Let us assure you that the music courses at Metea Valley are designed to provide instruction and performance opportunities for students at various technical skill, knowledge, and experience levels. Any student with minimal instruction in the basics of instrumental music performance can enroll in one of the high school bands. There is **NO AUDITION** required to enroll in band. MVHS Music teachers will visit 8th Grade classrooms in January and February to assess each 8th grade student's performance of the 2nd Quarter Technique Benchmark. This assessment will be used to place students in the ensemble class that will best meet their educational and musical needs.

You should also know that it is not uncommon for conflicts to arise between required courses and elective subjects on the first attempt to work out a course schedule. However, participation in a variety of academic electives and co-curricular activities is not only possible; it is strongly encouraged by both high school teachers and college admissions officers. In fact, Fine Arts courses are essential for developing the 21st century skills of collaboration, critical thinking, communication, and creativity necessary for college and tomorrow's work force. This year, approximately 1 out of every 3 students at Metea Valley is enrolled in a curricular music course. Membership in the MVHS Bands contains athletes from every sports team, thespians, debate, speech team, dance team, cheerleading squad members, yearbook staff, math teams, Honors and Advanced Placement students, choir, foreign language, and many, many more.

Please visit the Metea Valley Music Department website at www.meteamusic.org for more information about the music department and enrolling in band. Please do not hesitate to call us at (630) 375-8858 or email us at don_devany@ipsd.org, glen_schneider@ipsd.org, or josh_kaminsky@ipsd.org if you have any questions about the music department. We are looking forward to working with you.

Musically,


Don Devany
Fine Arts Department Chair


Claire Fenton
Band Director


Josh Kaminsky
Band Director


Meredith Roche
Band Director


Glen Schneider
Band Director