

# Shekou International School Music Department



8 November 2013

Dear Sixth Grade Students and Parents:

We are excited that you have chosen to participate in music for the rest of the school year, and we're looking forward to a happy and productive class. Sixth grade students in music class have the opportunity to sing in a choir with Mrs. Gifford AND learn to play an instrument with Dr. Gifford. We believe this will give the students a rich and varied experience in music.

Students will sing and play instruments every music class. For 40 to 45 minutes of each music class, orchestra students will learn to play string instruments while band students sing. After the first 40 to 45 minutes, the students will change places. Band students will then learn to play band instruments while orchestra students sing. Each student will be assigned an instrument to play for the remainder of the year.

The students have been introduced to the band instruments and string instruments. Please talk about the instruments at home and select a first, second, and third choice below. We will do our best to honor first and second choices, but several factors must be taken into consideration including limitations on the number of available instruments and balance of groups. If you own an instrument already or would like to purchase an instrument, you are encouraged to use it. Please note that students who wish to play percussion need to have had at least 2 years of piano lessons. Please return the bottom portion of this letter by **Tuesday, 12 November**.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us by e-mail at [cgifford@sis.org.cn](mailto:cgifford@sis.org.cn) or [mgifford@sis.org.cn](mailto:mgifford@sis.org.cn) or by phone at (0755)26693669-8119.

Let's work together to make this the best year ever!

Sincerely,

Dr. Cody Gifford  
Band and Orchestra Teacher

Mrs. Melody Gifford  
Choral Music Teacher

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Please mark your first, second and third choice and **return to school by next Tuesday**.

If you have your own instrument and would like to play it, please write "own" in the blank:

_____ Flute	_____ Trombone
_____ Clarinet	_____ Baritone
_____ Alto Saxophone	_____ Violin
_____ Percussion	_____ Viola
_____ Trumpet	_____ Cello

Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's signature: \_\_\_\_\_