

Background Information

Middlebury Elementary School is located in Middlebury, IN and is part of the Middlebury Community School system. The school is in a rural setting comprised of approximately 330 students in grades K-3. Students in our elementary school take part in a music curriculum that meets three times per week.

The current music curriculum consists of students learning how to read rhythms and music, sing songs, and play instruments (such as mallet instruments, boom whacker tubes, and recorders). Students give performances throughout the year to their families and the community through concerts that are held in the school's gymnasium.

The elementary music program is a strong feeder program for the middle and high school choirs and bands. It is at this age level that students receive their first taste of what music is all about.

Teaching guitar to students is a benefit to them as it gives students another musical experience in school. Unlike mallet instruments, boom whacker tubes, and recorders, the guitar will allow students to learn an instrument they can play as teenagers and adults. Guitars are popular and are played outside of the school setting, whereas recorders and boom whacker tubes are not. Guitar players can be lifelong learners who have a deep appreciation of different musical genres.



Actual Baby Taylor Guitar

More information about the guitars can be found at www.taylorguitars.com

Once the guitar curriculum is up and running students in 2nd and 3rd grade will be given instruction on guitar during their music class. Students will perform for the community at concerts throughout the year. Students will also be invited to be in a guitar club that will meet after school. This will be an opportunity to continue learning about the guitar in a smaller setting. Musicians from the community will be invited in to speak to the students and “guest-teach” regarding various guitar techniques.



Want more information?

I would be happy to further discuss this opportunity with you at your convenience. I am available to come to speak to you or your organization to further share the need for equipment to start the guitar curriculum. Please do not hesitate to contact me at the number or email address listed on this brochure.

—Jeremy Miller

Principal, Middlebury Elementary School

Middlebury Elementary School

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Guitars In The Classroom



Middlebury
Elementary
School

Guitar Curriculum Needed

Middlebury Elementary School is looking to expand its popular music curriculum by offering all students the opportunity to learn how to play guitar. Guitar is an exciting instrument found in almost every type of musical genre. By offering guitar instruction, students would be given more opportunity to expand their knowledge of music. Guitar instruction would also benefit students in the following ways:

- Playing a musical instrument significantly enhances the brainstem's sensitivity to speech sounds. This relates to encoding skills involved with music and language. Experience with music at a young age can "fine-tune" the brain's auditory system.
— *Nature Neuroscience, April 2007*
- Students in high-quality school music education programs score higher on standardized tests compared to students in schools with deficient music education programs, regardless of the socioeconomic level of community.
- A report released by the Texas Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse found that students involved in courses beyond the required 'basics' were less likely to be involved with drugs. The study went on to show that 'Secondary students who participated in Band or Orchestra reported the lowest lifetime and current use of all substances' (Alcohol, Tobacco, Marijuana or any illicit drug).
— *From Houston Chronicle, January 11, 1998*



Students in music class at Middlebury

Goal

The goal of Middlebury Elementary is to raise enough money to purchase 25 student guitars and 2 adult guitars.

Cost

The student guitars are being offered to Middlebury at 50% off the list price. The school's cost for each student guitar is \$200.00 (plus shipping). This price is a better price than what dealers can purchase the guitars for from the manufacturer! The total cost is approximately \$8,367.00 for all of the equipment needed. The selected guitars are from the Taylor Guitar Company. This is an American company headquartered in El Cajon, California.

Need

The student guitars are 3/4 sized steel string guitars, such as what you would see in the hands of many professional musicians across the country. The main difference is that these guitars are sized for the needs of students. Budget constraints limit the school itself from purchasing a large quantity of the guitars for students. We are asking entities to consider sponsoring the cost of one student guitar for Middlebury Elementary. A larger monetary gift would be welcomed as well if that is what you choose.

Entities who sponsor a guitar or guitars would have their name (or whatever designation they choose) engraved on a plaque that is placed on the back of the guitar. This would be done so that the school and community would always remember your generosity.

Please consider investing in the lives of students by helping to promote the music program at Middlebury Elementary School. The addition of the guitar curriculum would be unique to Middlebury Community Schools and would affect every student who attends Middlebury Elementary for years to come.

Middlebury Elementary Guitars In The Classroom Donation Form

Please remember that this donation is tax-deductible!

A receipt will be sent to you for the amount of your donation for tax purposes

Yes! I would love to help Middlebury Elementary develop their guitar curriculum.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

I am sponsoring one student guitar at a cost of \$200

I would like to sponsor more than one guitar! My sponsorship is in the amount of \$_____.

I am not able to sponsor a full guitar. The amount that I am able to sponsor at this time is in the amount of \$_____.

Checks can be made payable to Middlebury Elementary School

I understand that a plaque will be placed on the back of the guitar that I sponsor. The name that I would like to use on the back of the guitar is: _____

Please return this sponsorship form to Middlebury Elementary in the envelope

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