

Mooresville Middle School Bands

233 Kistler Farm Road
Scott Mills, Director – scottmills@mgsd.k12.nc.us

Mooresville, NC 28115

Phone (704) 658-2723
Cory Gudger, Director – corygudger@mgsd.k12.nc.us

Dear Parents,

6th grade students are eligible to sign up for Beginning Band in 7th grade. The band program in the Mooresville Graded School District is a very successful and exciting program. If your child is interested in learning to play a musical instrument and being a part of this program, this letter contains the information for getting them started. Please contact Mr. Gudger if you have questions not answered by this letter.

IS BAND A REGULAR CLASS?

Yes. Band classes meet every day and students receive a grade in band just as they do in academic classes.

ARE THERE AFTER SCHOOL PRACTICES?

No. The only required band activities that happen outside of the school day are concerts. We will have 2 - 4 concert per year; the two biggest are in December and April. Specific dates of concerts will be given out at Open House.

SHOULD THE STUDENTS ALREADY KNOW HOW TO READ MUSIC? IS NATURAL TALENT NECESSARY?

No. We will teach them everything they need to know. Our first classes will be spent on learning to read music and then they will start to apply that knowledge to playing the instruments. Natural talent is not necessary. All students who have a good instrument, have their materials for class, and practice at home can succeed, but it takes work.

HOW MUCH PRACTICE IS REQUIRED?

Beginners should practice at least 15 minutes per night or 4 times per week for 30 minutes to an hour.

WHICH INSTRUMENT SHOULD MY CHILD CHOOSE?

The instrument choices are as follows:

Woodwinds (these instruments are usually rented; the school does own a few instruments)

Flute – can be challenging to make sound at first, similar to blowing in a soda bottle.

Clarinet – popular instrument starts out easier and gets more challenging with fingerings, options include switching to bass clarinet, contrabass clarinet, and tenor or bari saxophone. **If you plan on playing a Saxophone instrument, choose this instrument.**

Brass (trumpets and trombones are rented; tubas are school-owned instruments)

Trumpet – small mouthpiece good for those with smaller lips, lips “buzz” to make sound, use lots of air

Trombone – bigger mouthpiece good for those with more full lips, “buzz” to make sound, use slide instead of valves to play notes

Percussion- snare drum, auxiliary equipment and bells

Please be aware of the wave of musical instruments that are available from the same department stores that can sell you tires or underwear. These instruments are of very poor quality and construction, and they will not last. They are constructed in China and there are no spare parts available for instrument repair shops. These instruments are largely incapable of being played in tune, and do not have the benefit of hundreds of years of research that the makers of quality instruments have. Also be careful of buying instruments online - use the guidelines below if purchasing online. If you have any questions about the quality of an instrument, please contact one of the directors.

HOW DO WE GET AN INSTRUMENT?

The easiest way to help your student get started is to rent an instrument. By renting, you can have a smaller investment in the beginning until you are confident of your child’s commitment to playing in band. The program is rent-to-own so if your child stays in band you will finish paying for the instrument usually by the end of 8th grade or beginning of 9th. In the event you already have an instrument or are given one, try to stick with the following brands which are considered the best: Bach, Selmer, CG Conn, Leblanc, King, Ludwig, Holton, Armstrong, Vito, Emerson, Artley, Jupiter, Buffet.

What Are The Benefits Of Joining Band?

Students in music learn to think creatively and to solve problems by imagining various solutions, rejecting outdated rules and assumptions. Questions about music do not have only one right answer.

Students of music learn craftsmanship as they study how details are put together painstakingly and what constitutes good, as opposed to mediocre, work. These standards, when applied to a student's own work, demand a new level of excellence and require students to stretch their inner resources.

In music, a mistake is a mistake; the instrument is in tune or not, the notes are well played or not, the entrance is made or not. It is only by much hard work that a successful performance is possible. Through music study, students learn the value of sustained effort to achieve excellence and the concrete rewards of hard work.

Music study enhances teamwork skills and discipline. In order for an orchestra to sound good, all players must work together harmoniously towards a single goal, the performance, and must commit to learning music, attending rehearsals, and practicing.

Music provides children with a means of self-expression. Self-esteem is a byproduct of this self-expression.

Music study develops skills that are necessary in the workplace. It focuses on "doing," as opposed to observing, and teaches students how to perform, literally, anywhere in the world. Employers are looking for multi-dimensional workers with the sort of flexible and supple intellects that music education helps to create as described above. In the music classroom, students can also learn to better communicate and cooperate with one another.

Music performance teaches young people to conquer fear and to take risks. A little anxiety is a good thing, and something that will occur often in life. Dealing with it early and often makes it less of a problem later. Risk-taking is essential if a child is to fully develop his or her potential.

Are There Any Scheduling Conflicts With Band?

As your child enters secondary schools, you both will find that choices have to be made between school activities and after school activities. Although today's teenagers want to do everything, they frequently have to decide what activities are most important to them. In 7th grade, the schedule is set up for students to take 4 "slots" of electives. Certain electives take up 2 of those slots – ie. band, Spanish IA. Students choosing these courses will have 2 slots left for PE and one other elective. Students are not able to be in band and Spanish due to those courses meeting every day. Although choices are limited for electives in middle school, high school affords students the opportunity to take many more electives. **Of the electives that can be started in high school, band is the only elective that a student must start in middle school in order to participate.** Students will be able to take the other elective classes in high school without having to take them in middle school. Band is a course that builds upon skills which is why beginning band is in 7th grade rather than 11th grade.

****Students will be unable to take both Band and Spanish in middle school at the same time.****

If you have questions about your child signing up for band and/or schedule questions, contact Mr. Gudger - corygudger@mgsd.k12.nc.us

It is important, if at all possible, to attend the registration meeting to get registered for the class and secure an instrument for the fall.

ALL STUDENTS MUST BE WITH A PARENT/GUARDIAN TO REGISTER

**RECOMMENDED WAY TO REGISTER AND SECURE AN INSTRUMENT:
Attend Band Registration on Thursday, March 30th from 3:00-7:00pm OR Tuesday, April 4th from 5:30-8:30 in the Mooresville Middle School Band Room.**

This is a drop-in style meeting to meet the directors and to make sure the student is placed on the proper instrument. Some instruments fill up fast. **The process should take about 30 minutes to complete.**

Representatives from Howren Music will be there to assist you in securing you an instrument.

If for some reason you cannot attend, their contact information may be found on their website at www.howrenmusic.net or you may also call them at 704-525-5073 and talk to a representative at their main store in Charlotte. They have rent to own plan starting at \$28 and up per month, depending on the instrument. Come prepared to make the first month's deposit to secure your instrument. You will not have another payment due until your student's instrument arrives

****FLUTE AND PERCUSSION ARE ONLY AVAILABLE ON MARCH 30th FOR AUDITION**
Do not plan on signing your student up for these two instruments if you cannot attend the session on March 30th.**

Students receive their instruments in the fall.

Bonus: If you rent your child's instrument on the registration day, your child will receive the band method book FREE.

Just as schools select vendors for other services, our program selected the full service music dealer, Howren Music, as our vendor many years ago. We have enjoyed a great relationship as they have provided our program with great service. While we do not require anyone to purchase from their company we highly recommend their rental purchase plan that allows your payments to apply to purchase while your child is deciding if band is for them. They also allow you to pay the instrument off early for a discounted price as well as purchase the instrument for a discounted price. Their representative has regularly scheduled weekly visits to take care of any repair needs for rental customers and individuals who own their own instrument. Many times repairs can be done at the school to keep your student playing with minimal disruption. Their representative can deliver instrument supplies to the school as well.



Mooreville Middle School 7th Grade Band Registration Form

To register your child for band, fill out and return this form to
MMS Band, Att. Cory Gudger, 233 Kistler Farm Road, Mooreville, NC 28115.

Thursday, March 30th from 3:00-7:00pm, OR Tuesday, April 4th from 5:30-8:30

**Mooreville Middle School Band Room - You may sign up to rent a band instrument & for class.
In the event you cannot make it to MMS on either of those dates, you may mail this registration
form to Mr. Gudger at the above address.**

Student Name _____

Home Address _____ Zip _____

Phone Numbers (home, cell) _____

Parents/Guardians _____

Parents/Guardians Email _____

*****IMPORTANT: FLUTE AND PERCUSSION HAVE LIMITS ON HOW MANY CAN BE
TAKEN. DUE TO THIS RESTRICTION, THOSE INSTRUMENTS ARE ON A “FIRST COME,
FIRST SERVE” BASIS. ONCE WE HIT OUR LIMIT WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO TAKE
ANYMORE IN THOSE SECTIONS***.**

Students First Choice of Instrument _____

Students Second Choice of Instrument _____

Students Third Choice of Instrument _____

If you have a financial concern that may inhibit you from renting an instrument, your student can choose from school-owned instruments (baritone or tuba). There may also be parents locally who have used instruments to sell. If you are interested in more information, give Mr. Gudger a call at 704-658-2723