

Future Band Member Guide

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Middle School Bandmasters Association

Spring Band Guide



Stanford University researchers found for the first time that musical training improves how the brain processes the spoken word, a finding that researchers say could lead to improving the reading ability of children who have dyslexia and other reading problems.

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Come Be A Part of the Fun & Success!

You are invited to come be a part of the fun and success in your middle school band program!

Students not only learn to perform on musical instruments, but they also learn the essentials of teamwork, self-motivation, self-discipline, individual responsibility, and social skills that prove to be effective in any career, sport, or other activity.

Students are offered instruction beginning in the sixth grade on

the following instruments: flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, and percussion. (See Band Director about percussion as a choice for beginners) **Beginning instruction is only offered in the sixth grade.**

Hopefully, many of your questions about signing up, acquiring an instrument, and requirements for participation will be answered by reading this publication thoroughly.

More information is available at the web site listed at the top of the page.

What Is This All About?

You will or will have received a letter from Mr. Mark Propst, Performing Arts Specialist.

During the spring, middle school band and orchestra directors will be visiting the elementary schools to tell rising sixth grade students more about the different instruments and about the band and orchestra programs.

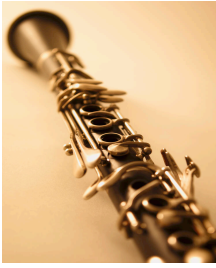
Look for the Instrumental Music Study Permission Form that will be attached to your child's middle school registration form. This form must be returned with the registration form for students

to join band or orchestra.

Directors will be in contact with you with important dates and times for helping your child select the best instrument for his or her success and the best investment for you as a parent.

You will find all of the current e-mail information for CMS Band and Orchestra Directors on the Performing Arts web site listed at the top of the page. If the directors have web pages, those are linked as well for your information.





*Did You Know...
66% of college
music majors who
applied for medical
school in 1996 were
accepted while
only 44% of
biochemistry
majors were?*

How Much Money Will This Cost?

Being in band costs some money, but you will be able to work out arrangements with a local music store. The music stores are may be able to offer discounts on the purchase of an instrument or can set you up on a monthly payment over the course of time.

In fact, the local music stores generally offer instrument rental programs. These programs are perfect for beginner students who may be “experimenting” with their commitment to something new.

The rental programs protect you from investing money in an instrument while not being 100% certain that your child will continue in his or her band instruction.

After your child’s first year, it is suggested that you trade in the rental instrument for a higher quality instrument for purchase on a monthly payment plan.



How Much Time Will This Take?

Beginning band students are only required to participate in one or two concerts during the school year depending on the director’s requirements.

Beyond that, other opportunities for students to participate may include Solo & Ensemble Festival as well as private lessons, both of which may be highly encouraged by the director.

Students may also be required to engage in regular home practice

routines like having homework from a “regular” class; however, home practice requirements usually range from 20 to 30 minutes per day for five days which leaves plenty of time for participation in other activities and schoolwork.

Students’ progress and success is determined by what they put into their practice and commitment.



Will Being In Band Affect My Child’s Grades?

YES-research shows that participation in band will affect your child’s grades **for the better!**

On average, students who participate in school music organizations **score 89 points high on standardized tests like the SAT** than students without musical

coursework.

Also, 70% of the nation’s universities report that participation in a musical organization is a higher consideration than test scores for admission.

Can My Child Participate In Band & Other Activities?

YES!!! - Not only is participation in other organizations possible – it is highly ENCOURAGED!! However, it is important to remember that commitment to the band program and practice time is necessary. Many of the skills each student will learn in band (teamwork, group accountability, etc.) will be GREAT assets toward their participation in athletic programs or any other organization. In fact, many great athletes, actors, professional musicians, and Presidents were active in band.

			
<p>David Robinson San Antonio Spurs <i>Saxophone</i></p>	<p>Halle Berry Oscar Winning Actress <i>Flute</i></p>	<p>Neil Armstrong First man to walk on the moon <i>Euphonium</i></p>	<p>Vince Carter Toronto Raptors <i>Euphonium</i></p>
			
<p>Nelly Furtado Singer <i>Trombone</i></p>	<p>Drew Carey Actor <i>Trumpet</i></p>	<p>David Duchovny Actor <i>F Horn</i></p>	<p>Julia Roberts Actress <i>Clarinet</i></p>

Statistics researched over more than a decade show that students who receive musical education improve their performance in classes such as mathematics and sciences. The evidence is so powerful that the federal government included music as a core subject, along with reading, writing and arithmetic in the Federal law known as No Child Left Behind.

CMS Middle School Bandmasters Association

Contact the band director at your middle school for more information.

Keep In Mind...

Just like a sports team, not everyone can play the same position. Not everyone who “really wants to” play a certain instrument will be able to do so. Instrument selection will be based on physical characteristics, musical aptitude, academic history, pre-determined instrumentation needs, and instrument availability.

Do **NOT** immediately run out and get an instrument until you have met with the director and have been given all of the necessary information about the instrument and the list of required accessories to accompany the instrument.

Do **NOT** buy used instruments without consulting the director and do **NOT** buy from anyone other than a reputable music vendor without consulting the director.

Consider this purchase as important to your child’s success as the purchase of a vehicle to your family’s safety.

Final Reminders

No prior experience or knowledge is necessary to join the band. Your child will be taught from scratch.

Turn in your **Instrumental Music Study Permission Form** on time with the registration form on time.

Make sure at least one parent attends any Band Parent Information Sessions.

Discuss with your child the importance of having a second and even a third choice for an instrument.

Discuss with your child the importance of staying committed to the band for at least one year to see the real joys and experience of being in the band.