



BAND in Sixth Grade

In sixth grade, you have an exciting opportunity awaiting you, **the chance to learn to play a musical instrument**. You also will have a chance to be member of the award-winning SFMS Band program and be around the best and the brightest students at the school. *Band is the largest group on campus (almost 33% of the total school), so you do not want to miss out.*

Facts and Questions about Band

- **You will have a chance to learn one of the following instruments:** flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, bassoon, trumpet, French horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba and percussion. *Sorry, we do not offer string instruments at this time.*
- **You will have a chance to join the largest group on campus.** Next year we will have almost 400 students in band at SFMS. The next largest will be the chorus. Almost half the school will be in one of these two groups. You will not want to miss out. **YOU CAN DO BOTH!**
- **How do I pick an instrument?** We will help you. **We will have an Instrument Fitting on May 18 from 5:00-8:00 PM at SFMS where you can try three different instruments and we will help you choose a great fit.**
- **Will there be after school rehearsals/events?** In the first year, there are no after school rehearsals. We give a concert in December and a few more in May. We enjoy a fun trip to Six Flags and there are some optional events open to sixth grade band members who excel.
- **Band is a regular daily connections class that will meet for the entire year.** You will still have a chance to experience all of the other connections class, including P.E. You can also enroll in chorus for the year. **You do not have to choose one over the other.**
- **How do I join?** Return the attached form to your homeroom teacher.
- **Do I need any experience?** NO! We teach you everything you need to know.
- **Do I need to buy an instrument?** Please wait until we try the instruments before obtaining an instrument. Some instruments are provided by the school: tuba, bassoon, horn, or euphonium. Other instruments, you will need to rent or purchase from area music stores or reputable music dealer.
- **Some recent accomplishments of the SFMS Band:** our band was a featured performing group at the University of Georgia and University of Troy, we had 37 students selected for the Georgia Music Educators Association District Honor Band, 4 students were selected for the GMEA All-State Band, Straight Superior ratings at our Evaluation Events, won Best in Class and Gold Award at Festival Disney in 2015, 15 students will be participating in the 6th grade Honor Band, over 70 students (many are in the 6th grade) will be participating in the Solo and Ensemble Festival, and we have an upcoming performance at Six Flags over Georgia.
- **Why Band?** Research findings suggest, children who are in music programs see significant benefits in reading, math, and logical-sequential thinking. In addition, high school students who remain in a quality music program also average 20 to 40 points higher on the SAT on both the math and verbal portions. Music majors have the highest rate of acceptance to medical schools. Annually, National Merit Scholars are involved in music programs more than any other single activity in school. *Other added benefits are a development of cooperation, self-expression, responsibility, discipline, patience, self-esteem, listening skills, and a potential life-long enjoyment of music.*
- **Can I be in other clubs?** Yes, our band students are active in numerous clubs and sport activities and still manage to participate in the band.

- **What do I do if I am undecided? Sign up for band!** This is your best chance to learn an instrument. If you are unsure, come try it. If you wait until later, there may not be another chance.
- **Questions?** Email Dr. Poor at: APoor@forsyth.k12.ga.us or Ehumphrey@forsyth.k12.ga.us Go to the SFMS website, <http://www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/Page/21209>, to download additional information about band.

Our Band Performing at the University of Georgia



Our Awards from Festival Disney



Performing at Our Fall Concert

