



Who can participate in band?
Everyone!

Famous People who were in band:

Jimmy Kimmel-Clarinet
Halley Berry-Flute
Julia Roberts-Oboe/Clarinet
Keesha-Trumpet/Saxophone
Lil Wayne-Cymbals
Nelly Furtado-Trombone
Nora Jones-Saxophone
Alanis Morissette-Flute

Just to NOTE:

McDonald's Corporation surveyed 500 chief Executive Officers of Fortune 500 companies and 500 U.S. Congressmen. Ninety percent said that playing a band instrument helps build character and leadership skills. When asked if they would encourage their children to pursue music as part of a school's curriculum, 100% of the congressmen and 98.6% of the businessmen said yes.

Come Join the DeSana Middle School Dragon Band!

Be a part of something very special as we begin making history as the newest middle school in Forsyth County.

All instruments are available and we hope you will choose to be a part of our program.

Research shows that students who participate in Band are more likely to:

- ♪ Have fewer discipline issues
- ♪ Score higher on all standardized tests
- ♪ Show a higher level of focus in all classes
- ♪ Develop teamwork skills needed for today's society
- ♪ Have more self confidence
- ♪ Make friends that will last for a lifetime
- ♪ Have more FUN!

Get Excited!



DeSana Middle School
625 James Road
Alpharetta, Georgia 30004



Home of the Dragon Band

Mr. Mike Mitchell
Band Director



WHY MUSIC? WHY BAND?

It might be more appropriate to ask: WHY NOT MUSIC? WHY NOT BAND? It is evident music education should be experienced by every student. We, as a culture, will be best served if the hearts and minds of our youth are filled with the knowledge and the understanding of MUSIC. The time has come, the time is now:

STRIKE UP THE BAND!

At the end of each school year, the DeSana band director will visit the feeder elementary schools to recruit for the beginning band program. This brochure will hopefully answer many of the questions you may have about band. Learning an instrument is very exciting.

Researchers have found that band participation:

- ✧ Enhances high brain function.
- ✧ Improves reading and math performance.
- ✧ Raises IQ scores and proficiency scores
- ✧ Provides important experiences that can help physical coordination, timing, memory, visual, aural and language skills.
- ✧ Enhances cooperation and builds teamwork skills.

Learning an instrument is also an activity that can be enjoyed for a lifetime.

Commonly asked questions about band:

I want to sign up for band, but I don't know how to play an instrument. How can I be in band?

99% of all beginners have never played a wind or percussion instrument in their lifetime. Beginning band is designed to teach you everything you need to know to play an instrument and be in a performing band.

What about after school practice?

Beginners have only a few after school practices all year: three before the Winter Concert in December and three before the Spring Concert in May. This is because we combine all first year band classes for our concerts. All band students are expected to practice each week on their own which will improve their skills.

I'm only going into the 6th grade. Am I too young for band?

Most students join band in the 6th grade. Music teachers know that the younger you start the easier it is to learn an instrument. This allows students to have three years on their chosen instrument before they join high school band.

There are many things I want to do in middle school. How can I be in band and all those other activities?

Band kids are involved kids. We encourage our students to do a variety of activities. We will have many students who go out for football, basketball, track or other school sports, as well as participating in one or more of our many clubs. Being well rounded and experiencing many different activities is part of the middle school experience and we encourage it. Since the majority of learning in band occurs during the school day, conflicts rarely arise. And when they do, we can work them out.

What are my instrument choices?

Band offers several choices of instruments for your child to play.

Woodwind Instruments include:

Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon and Alto Saxophone

Brass instruments include:

Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Baritone and Tuba

Percussion instruments include:

We recommend the combo kit which include: Snare Drum and Bells

How to determine which instrument to play.

During the first few weeks of school, all students in the 6th grade will be given the opportunity to try some of the instruments listed above. This is called "fitting". This will help determine which instrument is best suited for your child. This will be a recommendation only. Most students will get to play what instrument they wish, but sometimes physically there is a need to choose the recommendation of the director.

I know what instrument my child wants to play, should I purchase or rent that instrument before classes start?

We highly recommend waiting until the fittings have occurred. Nothing is more frustrating for children than trying to learn an instrument that they are not physically suited for.

I saw an instrument at a warehouse store that seems affordable. Can I just buy this instrument for my child to use?

Before or after the Instrument Fitting, a meeting for you and your child concerning renting an instrument and the lesson book needed for the class will be held. We do not recommend instruments sold by non-music stores. Most of these instruments are imported from third world countries and are not of an acceptable quality for your child. In addition many cannot be serviced or repaired.