



Belmont Middle School Band



Greetings, Perspective Band Parent!

As your fifth grader looks forward to the close of this school year, there appears a very important decision for each of you to make. This is a choice about *band*; however this choice encompasses critical factors regarding your child's future, such as his/her choice of peers, intellectual growth and stimulation, and possibly, future scholarship and travel opportunities.

In addition to the pure joy of making music, training in music and the other arts prepares your child for life in many other ways. According to the College Entrance Examination Board, students with a four or more years of music study scored 34 points higher than their peers on verbal Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SAT) and 18 points higher on math SATs.

The U.S. Department of Labor issued a report in 1991 urging schools to teach for the future workplace. The skills they recommended (working in teams, communication, self-esteem, creative thinking, imagination, and invention) are exactly those learned in Band.

Studying music increases the satisfaction students derive from music by sharpening sensitivity, raising their level of appreciation, and expanding their musical horizons (Starland Music Center, 2011).

On **Tuesday, May 22nd**, all rising 6th Grade Band Students will register in the Belmont Middle School Band Room. It is very important that all prospective band students and their parents attend this sign-up. During this time I will register students for band and parents will receive some very important information. You will also have the opportunity to ask me any questions you may have. The time for this "drop-in" registration will be **5:00-7:00pm**. Please bring your **completed Instrument Selection** form to Band Sign-Up Night on **Tuesday, May 22nd**.

Your student may sign up for the following instruments in 6th Grade:

- Flute
- Clarinet
- Alto Saxophone
- Trumpet
- Trombone
- French Horn
- Baritone
- Tuba

After I have assigned your student the instrument they will play (a email will come to you telling you which instrument), you will need to purchase or rent your instrument. The French horn, Baritone, and Tuba are school owned so you will only need to purchase a mouthpiece specific for that instrument.

You may have noticed that the Snare Drum is missing from the lists shown above. Please be assured that this instrument has not been forgotten. It is extremely important that those who play Snare are also properly skilled in reading pitches as well as rhythms. Therefore, those who are seriously interested in the Snare Drum must first choose one of the woodwind or brass instruments to rent and learn for the first half of the year. During January, auditions will be held to fill the needed positions for Percussion.

Purchasing/Renting an instrument is a great investment for parents, which will pay for itself many times over. Choosing to be a member of the Band is a big decision; however, your decision to join Band cannot be delayed, this is the only year your student will be allowed to sign up for Beginning Band.

Band is a very important commitment for both the student and the parent. It is a year long class, so note that the commitment is also year long. You and your student will depend on me as the director to teach them properly. I will depend on your student to be a positive, willing, committed, and cooperative learner. And finally, I will depend on you, the parent, to work with me on consistent practice, encouragement and growth of our student.

I am looking forward to meeting you and to an exciting and productive new school year with your student.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Carrie Lineberger
Band Director
crlineberger@gaston.k12.nc.us