

Welcome to Millbrook Middle School's Beginning Band!

For those of you who have never been in Band before you get an extra WELCOME! You are about to begin a journey which could wind up lasting a whole lifetime. Below are important questions and information about this class, so please read this thoroughly.

Where do I get up to date information about band?

- Any and ALL important information will be sent through the MMS Band remind @mbrookbnd6 You can also reach me by email at zach.smith@elmoreco.com.

What does my child need for beginning band?

- Your child will need an instrument, beginning band book, and an MMS Band Shirt. All of these items are provided by different vendors listed below.

Is there a Band Fee?

- Yes, the band fee is **\$80.00**. This will pay for your student's band shirt along with class supplies such as music and fees. There will be fundraising to help cover this fee. The fee can be paid online to the school using MySchoolBucks. The link will be on the school website under the "Band" Tab. This link is not active yet, but will be sent on remind when it is active.

What instrument will my child play?

- This is a tricky question. Sometimes due to physical constraints a child may not be suited to play a certain instrument. So, we will have an **instrument audition night on Thursday August 29th, 4:30 – 7:00 here at the middle school**. You will have the opportunity to watch your child try out several different instruments so that you can see which one(s) they naturally get a good sound out of without working too hard.

Do we have to buy our own instrument?

- In most cases yes. The band program does not have very many instruments for students to use. The instruments we do have for students tend to be the larger instruments such as Tuba and Trombones. **Students using school owned instruments will need to pay a \$60.00 rental fee per semester to cover maintenance** (make checks out to MMS). IF PURCHASING AN INSTRUMENT IS A CONCERN PLEASE CONTACT ME & I will do my best to get your child an instrument.

How much is an instrument and where can we buy it?

- Instruments can be purchased from Art's Music Shop and Music & Arts with payment plans ranging from \$30-\$80 per month! Art's music shop will be at our audition night Thursday, August 29th. If purchased at the event, instruments will be delivered directly to the school!

Can we buy our instrument from the internet, Pawn shop, etc.?

- Yes, you can, **BUT I highly recommend Art's Music**. Art's has **certified in-house instrument repair technicians**, and your purchase price includes a service warranty. An Art's Music representative stops by the school weekly in case an instrument needs to be adjusted or repaired.
- Instruments bought from other places do not come with service contracts and there is also no guarantee that the instrument is in proper playing condition at the time of purchase.

We have old family instrument, can we use that?

- Yes, but only if your student tests well on that instrument. I do recommend that you bring the instrument in question to the audition night and let me or the people from Arts "check under the hood" and make sure that the instrument is in good playing condition.

What is band's after school commitment?

- We might have an after school rehearsal to prepare for concerts. I will send out any rehearsal info at least two weeks in advance over remind. There will be a Christmas Concert and Spring Concert (date TBD), both are required because this is where we show off our hard work!
- In addition to concerts, you all are invited to perform with the Pride of Millbrook during a TBD SE football game, Millbrook's Christmas Parade, and Millbrook's Mardi Gras Parade!

What should my child wear for concerts?

- Your student must be wearing Black LONG sleeve dress shirts/ black slacks (or school dress code skirts)/ black dress shoes (flats only) and long black dress socks.

How often should my Band student practice at home?

- Your student really should be playing their instrument more at home than they do at school.
- That time should be broken up throughout the week (30ish minutes a day)
- I know it starts rough! Please encourage your student(s) to practice and encourage them as they progress with their instrument!