**WELCOME TO Beginning Band**

**Beginning Band Info**

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. There is a lot of info for me to cover so let me get right to it.

FAQ –

\* What does my child need for band? Your child will need a Beginning band book (Essential Elements 2000 Book 1), Band t shirt, and an instrument.

\*Band Fee: **$80.00** and will pay for your student’s band shirt along with class supplies – **The fee can be paid online to the school using MySchoolBucks.**

\* 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 17, 4:30 – 7:00 here in the Jr. High lunchroom.** You will have the opportunity to watch your child try out several different instruments so that you can see which one(s) they 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** feel free to **contact me** and I will do my best to see what we can do.

\* How much does an Instrument cost? The monthly payment for beginning band instruments runs $30 - $50

\* Where can we buy an instrument? When we have our instrument audition night on Thursday August 19 **Arts Music** will be here with NEW and USED instruments for sale / rent to own.

\* Is there anywhere else I can buy my instrument? Yes, **Lisenby Music** [**(334) 730-0326**](tel:334-730-0326) in Prattville and Bailey Bros. Music in Montgomery are now **MusicandArts** Rental affiliate Locations and have new and used instruments for sale and rent. You can also contact our MusicandArt’s Rep. Mike Huelsmann (618) 218-4408.

\* Can we buy our instrument from the internet, Pawn shop, etc.? Yes, you can, **BUT I highly recommend Art’s Music** because walking out the door you will know that the instrument is in proper playing condition, they have **certified in-house** **instrument repair technicians,** and your purchase price includes a service warranty. An Art’s Music representative stops by the school weekly incase 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 an (insert instrument name) that belonged to someone in the family, can we use that instrument? If your student tests well on that instrument that is fine with me. I do recommend that you bring it to the instrument 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.

\* Does my child have to stay for after school practice? We will have a few after school rehearsals before Christmas and several after Christmas. **Calendar info will be sent out via remind.**

\* Do the Beginners Perform at Concerts? Yes! The Beginners will play at the **Christmas and Spring Concerts** (which are test grades) and might play at a few MMS functions. In addition, **all MMS band students are invited to march with the *Pride of Millbrook* marching band** during the **SE pregame show on Oct. 13 and** the **Millbrook Christmas parade Dec. 2.**

Concert uniform: for concert performances 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 (see attached photo page).**

\* How often should my Band student practice at home? I require that the students practice a **minimum** of **30 min. 5 times** a week. It is more beneficial for the student to practice in short amounts several times than for them to practice 3 hours 1 time.

**Please join the band remind –** MMS Band '23 - '24 - Join code **@g3achb2**

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact me: (email is the best way to get me) [will.boartfield@elmoreco.com](mailto:will.boartfield@elmoreco.com)

I look forward to seeing you at the instrument audition night on

**Thursday August 17, 4:30 – 7:00**