

Milwee Middle School Band

Beginning Band Parent Meeting!



Welcome!

- Goals for Meeting:
 - Introduce new parents to the world of band
 - Introduce expectations of students while in class and at concerts
 - Briefly Review Curriculum and Grading Policies
 - Review expectations of maintenance and care of instruments
 - Explain Uniforms, Fees, and other band related costs outside of renting an instrument
 - Explain the importance of the Band Boosters and being involved
 - Explain instrument testing system and upcoming testing/rental dates
 - Answer and assist with any additional questions you may have



Before we start...

- Did you grab a copy of the band handbook contract?
- Open the electronic version of the handbook
- Do you need a pencil or pen to take notes?
- Please silence your cell phones so we can make this as efficient of a meeting as possible.



Lets Begin! Why Band?!

- Congratulations on your choice of selecting one of the most elite groups on any middle, high school, or collegiate campus across the country.
- Music students consistently score higher on SAT, ACT, have higher graduation and GPA rates, are more likely to study at a higher education institution.
 - This is because music activates many areas of the brain at the same time. To simplify: Math (rhythm) and counting is used all the time which activates the left side of the brain, and Reading/Language (notes and pitch) activates the right side of the brain. Both are vital in a successful performance
 - Most importantly, music teaches us how to be passionate and learn about our aesthetic feelings – which grows all parts of the brain that is normally rarely activated and grown by other non-art related activities.



Why Band?

- Band teaches Teamwork and Reliability
- Band teaches Responsibility
- Band teaches Integrity
- Band teaches Effort
- Band teaches Passion and Conviction
- Band emphasizes how to be a Family



Handbook Review

- Program Procedures and Information (HB pg. 3)
 - Please take one minute to read the ten expectations of all band students
 - These are the “ten commandments” of being a band student at Milwee Middle School
 - Students who do not follow these ten procedures will receive phone calls home, with further discipline procedures to follow that include parent conferences, administrative conferences, and possible dismissal from the band program



Above all else, Respect....

- Instruments, equipment, learning environment, rehearsal space, Our School, Peers, the rehearsal, mistakes, teachers, volunteers, ourselves....
- Students only need to follow the law of respect to be an amazing band student at all times.



Any Questions about Procedures?

3 questions and 2 minutes max, please write down any additional questions for the end.



Last Overview of Conduct

- Loud, boisterous behavior is inappropriate in the band room. This type of behavior distracts from a positive learning environment and is never acceptable.
- Gum, food, or drinks (other than water) will not be tolerated in the band room.
- Be respectful of other people's property. If it is not yours, do not touch it.
- This is essentially our home. We want to keep it clean and have it be a pleasant place to share the joy of music.
- Due to the amount of hard work and dedication band students put forth, being allowed in the band room is considered a privilege and not available to non-band students
- If you act as an adult, then you will be treated as an adult.



Grading Policy Overview

- Found on Page 6 of the Handbook
- Daily Participation, Class Preparation
- Playing Exams/Written Quizzes (Pass/Fail System)
- Rehearsals/Performances
- ~~Practice Logs~~
- Please look in the band handbook for further details and descriptions.



Practice or Creativity Log

Indicate time & duration of a practice or creative session in the field marked *Time* (e.g., 8-9 a.m.); in the box beneath, summarize accomplishments.

Name: _____

Week of _____

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<i>Time:</i>						
<i>Time:</i>						
<i>Time:</i>						

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Milwee Middle School Practice Logs – Due Every Monday, and Must be Signed by Parent!

120 Minutes = A 90 Minutes = B 60 Minutes = C 30 Minutes = D

Suggested Practice Routine

- Parents, Please take 2 minutes to read through Page 7 in the band handbook under the section “Suggested Practice Routine”
- Please listen to your child practice! Don’t just fill out the practice forms on Sunday night. Be an active participant in your child’s musical growth.
 - At home concerts, family “iChat” performances, learn my favorite folk tune



**There are NO Chair Placements
in Beginning Band 😊**



Rehearsals and Performances

- Found in the the band handbook on page 8.
- Please take one minute to read that page.
- There will be three performances for beginning band members of all three periods. We will perform as one beginning band, all three classes combined!
- The beginning band will perform once in October, December (Winter Concert) and once in the May (Spring Concert).



Any Questions about Grading, Rehearsals, or Practices?

4 questions and 3 minutes max, please write down any additional questions for the end.



Instruments and Instrument Care

- Pages 12–14 in the band handbook.
- Please read these sections with your student at home, over the next week.
- We will address more information later in this meeting concerning instruments and instrument care.



Uniform for Concerts

- Page 15 in the band handbook.
- As per the handbook
- The band students perform at several different events during the school year. In order to present our best appearance at these functions, every band member needs to look their best. These are the needed items:
- **Concert and Beginning Band**
- Milwee Band t-shirt (Beginners)
 - New Milwee POLO shirt (Concert Band)
- Black dress pants w/ black belt
- Black dress shoes w/ black socks
(shoes must be closed towed, no flip flops, flats are OK)



Milwee Band T-Shirt

- Green T-Shirt with Milwee Band Logo on the Front.
- \$10, which can be purchased tonight from the band booster table in the back of the room after the meeting.
- We will also wear this shirt at our end of the year band celebration trip (more details to come about the band trip later!), and any other band field trips we take
- Used at concerts for beginning band students



Overview of “Fees”

- Milwee Band Uniform Shirt - \$10
- Beginner Band Fee - \$20, *NOW INCLUDES* *Beginning Band Book*
- Fundraising opportunities – In the fall and spring, students are expected to help defray the costs of running a solvent band program. Normally, fees would be anywhere from \$150-200 per student to participate in band.
 - Yes, there will be an incentive program similar to last year.
- Because we have had such success in the past with fundraising, we are able to keep our band fees SUPER LOW!
- Band fees go to pay for guest clinicians, MPA and Solo and Ensemble Registration Fees, new music, instrument repairs and supplies, new instruments, bus transportation fees, and a myriad of other costs incurred.



Band Boosters

- Please read page 16 of the band handbook.
- Mrs. Chris Kilby, Band Booster President
- We need chaperone help! Volunteer help during the day. Wendy Loerzel is our Volunteer Coordinator. She will be organizing all volunteer opportunities.
 - Registered “Dividend”

Instrument Testing and Rental



DO NOT...DO NOT...DO NOT!!!!

**PURCHASE YOUR
OWN INSTRUMENT
NEXT WEEK!**



Please wait!

- We have already begun instrument introductions and testing in class on Flute and Clarinet...
- ..and will continue to introduce on Oboe/Bassoon, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Tuba in class over the next few days.
- Students will get to play each instrument listed above for about 5-10 minutes.
- Students will receive about 1-2 minutes of one-on-one instruction from Mr. Autrey during this time.



A little note about Instrument Selection.....

- This happens every year:
 - 6 out of ten students want to play percussion.
 - 3 out of ten students want to play saxophone or trumpet.



About 120 beginners this year....

- Okay Math experts...here's your chance to shine...
- ...60% of students wish to take percussion as their choice...that would make _____ percussionists if they all got their way.
- Now parents...imagine the band concert with 78 percussion....and 52 wind players.....
- Yikes!



Please understand.

- We want your child to enjoy his or her band experience at Milwee MS.
- We want to have a very successful band program here at Milwee MS.
- Simply put – we cannot have both, if every student were able to get their number one choice of instrument.



Keep an Open Mind!

- Your son or daughter might “know” exactly what they want to play – that’s awesome!!!
- However, some other factors might inhibit their ability to succeed on that instrument. Some students have various facial features that lend themselves to sound great on certain instruments, and less than great on others – perfectly normal!
- Please try to keep an open mind about instrument selection. The decision is a combination of the student ability, student interest, parental input, and professional input.
 - Professional input includes outside instructors and Mr. Autrey



Instrument Selection Night

- ie. “Instrument Petting Zoo Night”
 - Thursday, August 18st in the MLMS Cafeteria.
 - Starts at 6pm with 3rd period students
 - 6:45pm with 6th period students
 - 7:30pm with 4th period students
 - Stagger Entrances to avoid a rush or build up of lines on each instrument section.



Procedures

- Check-in with Mr. Autrey at the main table to receive your Testing Form.
- Fill out your name, and other information listed.
- With parent, visit instrument stations which are manned by professional musicians who will test each student on the instrument and give recommendations to Mr. Autrey on your form.
- Please be patient as each student will take about 1 to 2 minutes per instrument per station.
- It helps to look around to stations that have less lines....usual big line offenders are Trumpet and Clarinet....but French Horn, Oboe, Bassoon, Tubas have generally small lines (most of the time!)



Procedures, Page 2

- Students MUST:
 - Try at least 3 Woodwind, and 3 Brass Instruments
 - The Stations are:
 - Woodwind: Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Bassoon
 - Brass: Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba

Students will receive comments and a score per instrument tested. Please do not read into a certain score as it is only one component of the instrument selection process. Ie. A “TEN” doesn’t mean they will get that instrument for sure.



Procedures, Page 3

- All done with at least 6 stations? (students can try them all, though!)
- At the bottom of the form, fill out the section that asks the student to list their top three instruments. There must be at least one brass, and one woodwind instrument out of those three choices.
- 98% of the students will get one of those three choices. The remaining 2%, I will call personally to speak to those individual students and parents to work something out the next day.

Bottom Line:

Mr. Autrey will have the final say on all instrument selection choices.



Noticed I haven't Mentioned.....

- Percussion?
 - And for a good reason!
 - Only 2-3 students will be selected for percussion, per beginner class. (Remember that comic, earlier!)
 - Percussion selections will be based on student classroom conduct and a rhythmic ability assessment
 - The percussion assessment took place yesterday Monday, in class. The assessment will be administered by the Milwee Middle and Lyman High School percussion instructor: Heather Thorn.



Okay! Testing Over...what next!?

- Testing and the “Petting Zoo” takes place on Thursday, AUGUST 18th.
- Rental Night – will be the following week on Tuesday, AUGUST 23rd at 6:30pm in the MLMS Cafeteria
 - This is a great opportunity to open a rent-to-own program with a highly reputable and reliable music store in Seminole County: Music Shack.

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Rental Night

- Your student will receive their instrument choice in class on Monday, August 21st.
- Music Shack will present a meeting which will outline the various instrument rental agreements. They will also have an accessories table on hand for you to get all of the additional items needed.
- Information about what accessories each instrument needs can be found on page 12 in the MLMS Band Handbook
- The meeting should be very brief, with lots of Music Shack staff on hand – everyone should be done by 7:45pm.



Rentals

- Instruments Rented through Music Shack will be delivered within 2 days!
- Some students may wish to rent larger instruments through the school – please understand that supplies are very limited. However, we do have LOTS of TUBAS 😊
- Lots....and lots....and lots of TUBAS 😊



School Rentals

- Students who rent an instrument through the school must pay a non-refundable \$100 per full school year in order to rent an instrument.
 - Checks can be made out to “Milwee Spartan Band Boosters”
- This helps defray the cost of normal wear-and-tear of the instrument. We do repair these instruments at no cost to the student for normal wear-and-tear repairs.
- Students who neglect to take care of their instrument, cause serious harm outside of normal use, bend or dent, or lose their instrument will be liable to replace or pay for any repair costs incurred.
- This is mostly a need-based service, we will take into consideration all financial situations before deciding about renting school owned instruments.

I already own my own instrument...

- Please see Mr. Autrey after this meeting, very quickly!



Thanks for coming!

We're looking forward to a fantastic BAND YEAR!

