



*"Achieving Today,
Conquering Tomorrow"*

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Visit our Web Site
www.scps.k12.fl.us

Greetings Prospective Milwee Student & Parents!

We are so excited at the prospect of having you join our family at Milwee Middle School for the 2017-2018 school year! Middle School is an exciting time for young students to explore new subjects that were previously not offered in the elementary school years; among the many academic courses from which your student is required to study, you will also be able to choose a few classes tailored to your interest. These classes are called "electives" and we are fortunate at Milwee to offer many great options for students to choose.

One of the **BEST** electives for academically focused students at Milwee is **BAND!** The band program at Milwee Middle School is an **award-winning program** consisting of **250** (20% of the school population!) hard working, motivated, and intellectually high achieving students. Having achieved the highest (Superior) ratings at our music festivals in both concert band *and* jazz band, we are glad to be recognized as one of Florida's finest music schools in band. Students in our program work hard to achieve our ambitious goals in performance and also have a great time making music in the process!

Joining Band is a serious commitment to excellence and we hope you will consider joining our ranks for the following school year. *Students in our band program are well rounded and often participate in sports, dance and gymnastics, religious activities, and many other clubs our school has to offer.* The band program often enhances these other activities as it promotes positive values such as responsibility, promptness, leadership, integrity, respect, and love. Connecting our feelings to the music we play combined with the technical aspects of performing on an instrument **engages multiple parts of the brain**, which is highly beneficial to academics in other classes.

This is why band students are the BEST:

1. Behaved students at school.
2. Academically Oriented students at school.
3. Focused and well-rounded students at school.

The majority of students achieving in our highest ensembles are also part of the Engineering Magnet and Pre-IB program at Milwee; students have been very successful making the commitment to participate in both facets of our school. We have ensembles for **ALL** students, regardless of skill level and time commitment. Band is an "equal opportunity elective", meaning the more time you put into the class, the higher you will achieve in our program. We encourage **ALL** students to practice, work together as a team, and reach new heights regardless of your previous musical and academic experience. **Simply Put: BAND IS FOR EVERYONE!**

Thank you for taking the time to look through this letter. It is important to us that you choose your electives with the full knowledge of your options. If you have any questions, please email myself at the email listed on the next page.

Thank you so much, and best of luck next year!

Joshua Autrey
Director of Bands
Milwee Middle School