



Joining...

.....

Band!!!

At Dickson Middle School

.....

It's that time again! Rising sixth graders at local elementary schools now have the opportunity to join the band program at Dickson Middle School! The sixth grade band program at DMS leads to membership in the award winning bands at Dickson County High School and to a lifetime of enjoyment making music!

In this packet you should have:

- A list of frequently asked questions
- Names of famous folks who were once in band like us!
- Info on how to join!

Do you have questions not covered in this packet? Feel free to contact Mr. Joyce at sjoyce@dcstn.org!

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can join band? All students, regardless of musical ability or background in music instruction, are invited to join band. The only requirements are self-control in the classroom, a commitment to practice at home, and a commitment to attend all activities and performances.

Is band safe during COVID-19? Studies have shown that playing a wind instrument is no more infectious than casual conversation, and it is just as safe to participate in as any other class offered at DMS. We will be practicing social distancing in class in addition to other band specific items to mitigate the spread of disease.

Can I do a sport or be a cheerleader and be in the band? Yes!! In fact, many of the cheerleaders and members of all types of sports teams are also in band! Since band class is during the day, there is no direct conflict.

How much time will it take? In all grades, instruction takes place during the regular school day. In the sixth grade there is little or no after school practice. The only after school time involved is the time you choose to put in to practice; it is recommended that you get in about three hours of practice spread out over the week. In seventh and eighth grade, there are 10- 15 after school activities in the course of the year. All are scheduled well in advance and conflicts are resolved as necessary.

Can I be in both Band and Chorus? Yes at the present. Although next year's schedule is yet to be determined, chorus is currently an after school activity and does not conflict with Band activities.

Do you have to be able to read music to be in the band? No! Regardless of your musical background, everyone is taught everything "from scratch."

What classes do I miss if I sign up for band? Since band takes the place of one entire related arts rotation, band students will miss three related arts classes. These classes can generally be taken with Band later on at DCHS. All students receive health and PE.

What if I don't join band in the sixth grade and decide to join later? Although it is possible to join band in the seventh grade, it is not advisable. Students who pursue this option must work extra hard to cover two years of instruction in one. Always an option for joining band late is private instruction at the family's expense. To catch up with private lessons, a student must be a motivated, hard worker. No matter how you do it, joining late is more difficult than joining in sixth grade. Sixth grade is the best time to join and get the benefits of the full three year period of instruction.

Can I play whatever instrument I want? There's a good chance you'll be able to! At the orientation sessions, the director will be able to help each child make sure their choice is appropriate for their abilities while at the same time trying to maintain a balance of all instruments in the ensemble. Numbers of students may be limited in drums, saxophones, and flutes. Other instruments usually have no limits.

What does the band do exactly? First and foremost, we learn how to make music by working together in a group setting. We learn the value of both hard work and team work through commitment and perseverance. On the side, we also have **fun!** In band at DMS we participate in pep band activities at football games, basketball games and pep rallies, as well as parades, concerts, and elementary school tours.

Additionally, we occasionally take "just for fun" trips where hard work and scheduling allow. Participation in the DMS bands also leads to participation in the DCHS band, which does all of the above plus more! In recent years the DCHS band has cruised to the Bahamas and Cozumel, been to Atlanta, Disney World, Universal Studios, and the Fiesta Bowl in Arizona, including a side trip to the Grand Canyon! Additionally, members of the DCHS band are frequently chosen to participate in the Tennessee Ambassadors of Music European Tour, featuring concerts in England, France, Switzerland, Austria, and Germany, complete with side trips to Lichtenstein and Italy!

Where do I get an instrument? Band students at DMS provide their own instruments with the exception of those who play French Horn, Baritone, or Tuba. (These students must supply their own mouthpiece.) Parents can get specific information about obtaining an instrument when their child comes in for his or her summer orientation session. Students also need to supply their own method books for a small price at the beginning of the school year, usually around a \$10 cost.

What does it cost to rent an instrument? You'll need to visit Bandwagon Music (<https://bandwagonmusicandrepair.com>) to get a specific answer, but generally, flutes, clarinets, trumpets, trombones, and drums can be rented from \$25- \$40 a month, depending on the instrument. School owned instruments have an upkeep fee of \$50 to use.

What if I can't afford an instrument? Don't let that stop you from joining band! Talk to the director personally- there is a limited number of other school-owned instruments available to students who need them for financial reasons.

How do I choose an instrument? When starting new students in band, one of the most important aspects is choice of instrument. A thoughtful approach to choosing an instrument will set a student up for success for years to come! During the first three weeks of school we will do "instrument fittings" and let students tryout cleaned and sanitized instruments to see what fits best for that student.

Famous People Who Were in Band in School:

Halle Berry (actress) Flute	Brandon Routh (actor) Trumpet
Terry Crews (actor) Flute	Emeril Lagasse (Chef) Trumpet
George Eastman (founder of Kodak) Flute	Tom Mantooth (baker, Ace of Cakes), Trumpet
Alyssa Milano (actress) Flute	Peter Dinklage (actor- Game of Thrones), Trumpet
Gwen Stephani (singer), Flute	Markiplier (Youtube) Trumpet
Alanis Morissette (Singer) Flute	Ashley McBryde (Singer) French Horn and Drum Major
Tina Fey (Actress) Flute	Ariana Grande (Singer) French Horn
Lizzo (Rap artist) Flute	Sting (Singer) French Horn
John Quincy Adams (former president) Flute	Ewan McGregor (actor) French Horn
Jenna Marbles, (Youtube Star), Clarinet	Vanessa Williams (Singer/Actress) French Horn
Julia Roberts (actress) Clarinet	Samuel L. Jackson (actor) French Horn
Gloria Estefan (singer) Clarinet	Xavier Woods (WWE) Trombone
Sara Evans (Singer) Clarinet	Bobby Bowden (FSU Basketball Coach) Trombone
Tony Shaloub (Actor) Clarinet	Jimmy Buffett (Singer) Trombone
Eva Longoria (Actress) Clarinet	Jonathan Frakes (actor/director) Trombone
Jimmy Kimmel (talk show host) Clarinet	Bill Engvall (Blue Collar Comedy Tour) Trombone
Steven Spielberg (director) Clarinet	Tony Stewart (NASCAR Driver) Trombone
Robert Reid (former Houston Rocket), Clarinet	Steve Carrell (Actor) Baritone
Amy Acuff (US Olympic High Jumper & Model), Clarinet	Neil Armstrong (Astronaut) Baritone
Zakk Wylde (Guitarist for Ozzy Osbourne), Bass Clarinet	George Takei (Actor) Baritone
Rainn Wilson (actor- The Office) Bassoon	Andy Griffith (actor) Tuba
Jennifer Garner (Actress) Sax	Dan Aykroyd (actor) Tuba
Bill Clinton (former U.S. President) Sax	Aretha Franklin ("Queen of Soul", singer) Tuba
Nora Jones (Singer) Sax	Malik Rose (NBA), Tuba
Katie Ledecky (Olympic Athlete) Sax	Thomas F. Wilson ("Biff" from the Back to the Future), Tuba
Tom Selleck (actor), Sax	Dolly Parton (Singer) Percussion
Lionel Ritchie (Singer) Sax	Gerard Way (My Chemical Romance) Percussion
Kesha (Singer), Sax	Kid President (Celebrity Kid) Percussion
Michael Jordan (Chicago Bulls) Sax	Tommy Lee (Supernova) Percussion
James Woods (actor) Trumpet	Eddie George (retired NFL) Percussion
John Glenn (Astronaut/U.S. Senator) Trumpet	Lil' Wayne, (Rapper) Percussion
Drew Carey (actor/comedian) Trumpet	Kurt Cobain, (Singer) Percussion
Stephen Tyler (Aerosmith) Trumpet	Pharrell Williams ("Happy" Singer), Percussion
Prince Charles (British Royal) Trumpet	Caleb Dressel (Olympic Athlete) Percussion
Shania Twain (singer) Trumpet	Walter Payton (NFL) Percussion
Flea (Red Hot Chili Peppers) Trumpet	Sheryl Crow (Singer) Majorette

DICKSON MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND
Shane Joyce, Director, DMS

Dear Parents of Fifth Grade Students,

As the school year begins, it is time to begin the scheduling process for Sixth grade students attending Dickson Middle School for 2022-2023. Currently, Band is the only elective class offered in middle school. Band students receive an entire year of instruction during their related arts block. As this is a scheduled class, please be aware that if you change your mind and want to remain in the standard Related Arts rotation, **those changes must be completed by August 12, 2022**. After August 12, no scheduling changes will be made and students will be locked in to their current schedule. Follow the instructions below to enroll. Feel free to email Mr. Joyce at sjoyce@dcstn.org with any questions.

.....

To enroll, please fill in the following information and return it to your teacher, or do it online as shown below:

Student name: _____ Homeoroom: _____

Current Elementary School: _____

Parent's Names: _____

Parent Email: _____

Parent Signature: _____

To go digital:

Go to our DMS Website at www.dcstn.org/dms.aspx and click "Join the Band".
(There's also a cool video about our band there as well!)

-or-

Take pic of this form and email it to sjoyce@dcstn.org

-or-



Follow this QR Code and do it online!

To make sure your child is scheduled correctly, please complete this form by May 13, 2022.