



Smith Middle School Band

1710 Country Club Road

Cleburne, Texas 76033

817.202.1531

Matthew Hiller and Holly Vasquez, Band Directors

November 18, 2014

Dear SMS Beginning Band Parents,

It is hard to believe that Thanksgiving is next week and December is just around the corner! As the semester comes to an end, we are looking forward to our first performance – the Beginner Recitals!

Beginner Recitals

Our class recitals are scheduled for **Tuesday, December 9**. The recitals take place during your child's regularly scheduled class on December 9. Please make arrangements to be in attendance at this first performance. The band directors look forward to this performance every year as it is our beginner's first time to show off the skills they have learned. Please review the backside of this letter for more information about these recitals. Below is a list of proper Concert Etiquette we expect students to observe at all concerts. It would be great for you to review these with your child prior to the recitals:

- Please enter the performance *quietly* and *quickly* find a seat. Latecomers should *wait* to find a seat at the first convenient pause in the music.
- Please *refrain from talking* during the performance.
- Please *refrain from taking flash photographs* as this distracts the musicians and other audience members. Feel free to take pictures between pieces or before and after the concert.
- Be sure your electronic devices and cell phones are *switched off* during the concert. This is not only embarrassing to you, but is very distracting from an enjoyable performance.
- Audience members that must leave during the concert should only do so during applause.
- It is *suggested that you not bring young children*. If this is unavoidable, please *keep them quiet*. We understand that you are here to listen to the performance. However, it is extremely disturbing to those performing when a baby begins to cry or a child talks.

Band Fees

All band fees should be paid. If your child still owes fees, please pay them as soon as possible or by Friday, December 5. We never want money to be an issue for your child to participate in band, but we must begin making payments on items that we owe. If you have a question about something, please contact a band director. Checks should be made payable to "SMS Band."

Band t-shirts have been distributed to all students that have paid their band fees. T-shirts are needed for all of our performances, so please make sure your child has their shirt. Extra shirts are \$10.

Spring Trip/Festival

We are currently working out details for our spring Beginning Band trip and festival. There will be a cost associated with this day trip. More details to come soon. We will have a fundraising opportunity in January to help with this.

Practice Reports

SMS Band students are expected to practice on a daily basis. Currently, a minimum of 15 minutes a day for 5 days is required for a 100. Consistent daily practice is the only thing a young musician can do to make improvement on their instrument.

SMS Band Winter Concert

We also want to invite you and your child to our Winter Concert given by the Concert Band, Symphonic Band, and Wind Ensemble. Come celebrate the holiday season with the SMS Bands on Tuesday, December 9. The concert begins at 6:30 PM in the CHS Performing Arts Center. We'd love to see you there!

Need help finding a gift?

Since the holiday season is upon us, we also wanted to take the opportunity to suggest some musical related gifts:

- A music stand for convenient home practice
- A CD of a professional wind band or orchestra
- A metronome/tuner (or app) for more efficient practice
- Tickets to a professional wind band or orchestra holiday concert
- A CD of a professional soloist on your child's instrument

Your child's band director can make suggestion of appropriate gifts for your child.

See you on the 9th!
SMS Band Staff

Superior Standards ~ Superior Success

www.smithmsband.com

www.facebook.com/SmithMSBand



You're Invited

The SMS Beginning Band Classes will hold their first recital on Tuesday, December 9, 2014. The Schedule is as follows:

**Saxophones, Euphoniums,
and Tubas**

1st Period 8:00-8:50

Clarinets & Trumpets

2nd Period 8:54-9:44

Flutes & Trombones

3rd Period 9:48-10:48

Percussion

6th Period 1:10-2:00

**Oboes, Bassoons, &
French Horns**

8th Period 2:55-3:45

- ❖ All recitals will take place in the SMS cafeteria. They will begin approximately 10 minutes after the start of the period.
- ❖ A short reception will follow each class recital. Please send cookies or a dessert with your child to share at the reception. Please do not send dishes that need to be returned. Please pre-slice any items that must be cut to be served. Cookies, brownies, and cupcakes work best.
- ❖ Feel free to video this performance!
- ❖ Make arrangements to arrive early so you can check in at the front office prior to your child's performance.
- ❖ Students will wear their band t-shirt and jeans. Please pay fees if you have not so your child will have their shirt.

Call (817-202-1531) or email the band directors if you have questions.

We hope you can make it!

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