



Smith Middle School Band

1710 Country Club Road

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Matthew Hiller and Holly Vasquez, Band Directors

September 30, 2013

Smith Band Parents,

Our year is off to a great start! Our pep rally performance two weeks ago was great and we're getting ready for a few more performances. This letter contains A LOT of information.

GOLDEN PRIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND NIGHT: OCTOBER 11 (6:00 – 7:30PM)

The SMS Band has been invited to perform with the Golden Pride at the home football game versus Burseson HS. This is a required activity; we expect all students to be in attendance. If your student is unable to attend please let us know immediately.

Students must wear their band t-shirt (they will get it soon) tucked into blue jeans with a belt, and tennis shoes as well as have their instrument, music and flip folder. The schedule is:

5:50 – Drop-off at the parking lot across from “The Rock” (behind Radio Shack)

6:00 – Organize for rehearsal

6:30 – Rehearsal with the Golden Pride Marching Band

7:10 – PRE-GAME PERFORMANCE

7:30 – Game kick-off time. After kick-off, we will dismiss all students. *Students must return their flip folder before leaving! At that time, students should either get picked up and go home or stay and watch the game.* Regardless, students will be dismissed at approximately 7:30. The band directors will not be responsible for students or instruments once they are dismissed. Please make arrangements with your child before you drop them off so they are aware of how/when they will be going home.

Note about equipment: Students are responsible for getting all necessary equipment to and from the games. Band directors will transport percussion instruments (not sticks and mallets) and tubas; all other students must transport their instrument. We need help transporting equipment. If you have a truck and can meet at SMS at 5:00, please let a band director know.

SMS FALL CONCERT: OCTOBER 15 (6:30PM)

Our first formal concert of the year is fast approaching. The concert takes place at the Cleburne HS Performing Arts Center. All students must be seated in their concert uniform by 6:00 PM for warm-up (Symphonic Band on stage; Wind Ensemble in band hall). The concert begins at 6:30 and should conclude by 7:30. The concert uniform consists of the black band polo (will receive soon), black pants, black, shoes, black socks, and a black belt. If your child does not have these, please start to get them now.

Like all SMS Band concerts, this is a required and graded performance. Students will receive a grade for attendance, attire, concert etiquette, and their performance. Among the required essential knowledge and skills your child must demonstrate as a member of a band class is proper etiquette as a member of the audience in a live concert. Therefore, students are required to listen to the other bands. We encourage you to make arrangements to be in the audience and invite your friends and family. Below, you will find some helpful advice on appropriate concert etiquette so our students may have an enjoyable experience:

- 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 pager and cell phone 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.

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www.smithmsband.com

www.facebook.com/SMithMSBand

FUNDRAISER

If you sold items in the band fundraiser, the expected arrival date is Thursday, October 17. Please start to make arrangements to pick up your items at the end of the school day. Remember that many items come frozen, so it is extremely important that items are picked up on time.

BAND FEES

All Band fees are due today, Monday, September 30. If you have not done so, please take care of this as soon as possible. You can check your child's balance at www.charmsoffice.com. The school log-in is "smithmsband" and your child's lunch code is the password. If you have any questions, please send Mr. Hiller an email.

Also, we encourage students to make monthly payments of \$20 toward their band trip in May. More details about the trip, including the total cost, will be made available next semester.

SECTIONALS

Sectionals are in full swing as we begin our 5th week of these after school sessions. At this time sectionals are required for Wind Ensemble and encouraged for Symphonic Band (required sectionals for Symphonic Band members will begin in a few weeks). The sectional schedule can be found on the Wind Ensemble portion of the band website. Our primary focus at this time is the music for All-Region auditions.

PRACTICE REPORTS

We are currently in our 4th week of practice reports. Please encourage your child to practice on a daily basis to help with their musical growth.

WIND ENSEMBLE

Wind Ensemble members are currently working on 4 recorded tests. They have already completed one and the second is due this Wednesday. These can be submitted via the Charms website or Charms app (instruction on the band website) or through one of the band's digital recorders. These tests are very challenging and grading is at a high level. The important thing is that students are practicing the assignments and making improvements. Written comments are provided to students after completion. These students are also working on seven major scales and a chromatic scale for a grade. With scales, all-region music, pep rally music, concert music, and the daily fundamentals we work on in class, Wind Ensemble students have a great deal of music to practice. There should be no shortage of music for them to practice.

SYMPHONIC BAND

The Symphonic Band is currently working on a few major scales, pep rally music, concert music, and daily fundamentals. Symphonic Band members will soon be given information on upcoming music tests centered around their performance of the fall concert music.

STAY CONNECTED AND INFORMED

Please stay informed about band activities.

"Like" us on Facebook – www.facebook.com/smithmsband

Visit the band website regularly – www.smithmsband.com

Subscribe to text message updates. Send the proper code to 832-266-1757:

Wind Ensemble: @smith-WE Symphonic Band: @smith-SB Practice report reminders: @smith-PR

Thanks,

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