

Be a Part of the Band!

Dear Parents:

May 4th, 2017

As a 6th grader, your child finally has the opportunity to do what so many successful students have done before them, Be Part of the Band! The chance to learn to play a musical instrument is once in a lifetime, and your child will value this experience the rest of their lives. I have never heard a parent say they ever regretted being in band, yet I have heard many people share that they regretted NOT ever being in band.

Please visit the Zimmerman Band website at www.zimmband.com and watch a short video called "All About Beginning Band" to get a look at what being in band is all about. Just click on the "Beginning Band" tab at the top.

Music education is more than just playing an instrument, it is immersing your child in a culture of successful students and teachers who care about education. It challenges each child to use the creative side of his/her brain while, at the same time, learning a foreign language...MUSIC. All of the current data clearly states that students involved in music education academically out-perform their non-musical counterparts and are less likely to engage in risky behaviors such as drugs and alcohol. The advantages of musical training on the brain are numerous and scientifically proven!

The research is very clear on the value of music instruction in a child's life:

- Music students score higher on average on college entrance exams than non-music students.
- Schools with strong music programs have higher academic achievement and lower dropout rates regardless of student socioeconomic status.
- Music training improves students abstract reasoning skills -more so than computer instruction.
- Students spending more time in music education classes have higher math skills, increasing as the time in music is increased.
- Students given music instruction raise their reading test scores higher after six months than students in discussion skills classes (traditional classroom).
- Participating in band is one of the strongest indicators of future success in life.

Every destination starts with a decision to embark on a journey, you can give your child this opportunity. Now is the time to start your child in music and ZMS 6th grade band is the place to do it. We can't promise that every child will be a musical prodigy, but we can promise they will learn, laugh, and grow along the way. Should you have any questions about band or your child's participation, please feel free to contact me via email.

Sincerely,
Shannon Curtis, Director of 6th Grade Bands
shannon.curtis@isd728.org

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Important Band Sign-up Dates:

Tues. and Thurs., May 23rd and 25th – I will be spending the day at Westwood to have students test play all the various instruments to make their decision on which instrument to play!

Thursday, MAY 25TH, 3:30-7:30pm. WESTWOOD CAFETERIA

– All parents are invited to come and shop for a beginning band instrument. Our district vendor, Schmitt Music, will be available to present their products and you may rent/purchase your instrument directly from them. If you choose to go a different route that is fine. We still encourage you to stop by and speak with the Schmitt Music instrument specialists!

- At this evening event Schmitt Music will have demonstration tables set up so that students can try an instrument again, or try something new for the first time! They will work with your students to create a great sound and help you make a great decision for instruments next year. Then you will simply move to their sales associates where you can ask questions about their rental and purchase programs. This is a great night to obtain an instrument for next year!

Thursday, June 1st – All band registration should be completed. Even if you are still shopping for an instrument you must have your **child signed up for what instrument they will play.** To register click on the link on the school website, or just send me an email with your instrument choice and I will include it on the list posted on our band website:

www.zimmband.com; under the “*Beginning Band*” tab at the top left.

ShannonCurtis@isd728.org

Instruments included in the beginning band program:

Flute (limited to ~ 25 students)

Clarinet (limited to ~ 24 students)

Alto Saxophone (limited to ~ 15 students)

Tenor Saxophone (limited to ~ 8 students)

Trumpet (limited to ~ 24 students)

French Horn (must rent a trumpet for the first 4 months, then switch to French Horn in January, music stores will do this, no limit)

Trombone (highly encouraged, limited to ~ 18 students)

Baritone (highly encouraged, limited to ~ 10 students)

Bass Guitar (Limited to ~ 6 students only, must have their own guitar and small practice amp)

Percussion (must pass a rhythmic proficiency test, piano lessons are strongly desired, Westwood music teacher must recommend you, only the most advanced learners are encouraged to play percussion limited to ~ 15 students). **These students will be selected by Mr. Curtis before the instrument night.**

*****Students should have a 1st choice and 2nd choice of instruments**

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Zimmerman 6th Grade Band Registration

To register for band is quite simple. Any of the following options is fine, they all will take you to the same place:

Option 1). Attend our registration night on Thursday, May 25th and sign up there!

Option 2). Please register online if possible. Just send me an email with your child's name and instrument selection – first choice and second choice. Once I receive the email your registration is complete. I will send you a confirmation reply that I have received the email and then will add your child's name to the online list.

Email Me at: Shannon.curtis@isd728.org

Option 3). Return this paper to your Westwood Music Teacher; I will collect them all and add your child's name to the online list.

Student's Name _____

Instrument 1 st choice: _____

Instrument 2nd choice _____

Parents name _____

Parents email contact _____

Parents phone _____

The official registration day is Thursday, May 25th, from 3:30 - 7:00pm, Westwood Cafeteria.

You may drop in at anytime, shop for your instrument from several music stores, and sign-up online on the computer I will provide. This night is strongly recommended!

All registrations need to be completed by JUNE 1st

You may see the band registration informational link at www.zimmband.com under the "beginning band sign-up" menu. I will update this list daily so you can see what instruments are being chosen and still available at that moment.

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2016-2017 Summer Beginning Band Lessons

Beginning band will be held the week of ***August 21st-25th*** in the Zimmerman MS/HS bandroom. The schedule will be as follows:

Monday – Friday, 8/21 – 8/25

9am flutes

10am clarinets

11am saxes

12:30pm trumpets (canceled on Thurs for WEB)

1:30pm trombone/baritones (canceled on Thurs for WEB)

2:30pm percussion (canceled on Thurs for WEB)

3:30pm bass guitar (canceled on Thurs for WEB)

Instruments that are rented/purchased through a music store will be delivered for the first lesson on the 21st. Students with other instruments should have them checked over and brought with them the morning of the 22nd. Please remember to have reeds (no. 2 1/2 or medium) and the book **Accent On Achievement: book 1 (blue book)**, I will have extra copies for sale at school. Your child will also need a Smart Music online account for practicing at home. This may be ordered at www.smartmusic.com. Smart Music can be installed on a Mac, PC, or iPad. A one-time purchase of a microphone will need to be ordered as well as the yearly subscription. I will send additional details of how to subscribe.

Any questions about your instrument?

Do you need additional supplies?

Call the instrument vendor from whom you purchased, or if you haven't ordered an instrument yet call our district vendor:

Schmitt Music:

ask for Alex Kahler (alexander.kahler@schmittmusic.com)

- Schmitt will send a rep to our school weekly for any of our needs. Repairs on Schmitt instruments can be sent to the store through our school.

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