



BELLINGHAM MEMORIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL BANDS

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Dear Parents & Guardians,

My name is Robert Glynn and I am the Band Director at BMMS. Next year your student will be exposed to many *new* things: a new school, teachers, peers, classes, sports, and activities. One very powerful and meaningful *new* experience that they have the option to participate in is the Beginning Band Program. This past year, nearly half of the incoming 5th grade class joined. Every band rehearsal and small-group lesson takes place during the school day. Band is a class that meets regularly at BMMS, and students do not miss any core subject time or specialists.

Being in Band can be one of the most rewarding experiences in the middle school years and beyond. It is more than just an activity; making music is a life-long learning experience which fosters **creativity**. By making music *together*, students learn an inherent part of being human: **collaboration**. They begin to find a new voice in the world and in turn learn effective **communication**. Additionally, music making requires carefully made judgements while using much mental and physical activity: **critical thinking**. These four **C's** are the building blocks of essential skills needed to grow up in the 21st century.

Additionally, I believe that music is *essential* for the full development of every child. Therefore, I strive to give the highest quality education to as many students as possible through Band. Students only need to show up willing to try their best, and the rewards will be plentiful and long-lasting.

On the back side of this letter is a list of dates you need to know in order to enroll in Band. Please note:

The last possible day to enroll in the Beginning Band Program is
Thursday, June 20!

If you have any remaining questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by email or phone, or stop by the middle school for an in-person meeting. Thank you, and I look forward to meeting and speaking with you!

In the meantime, you can find information at our website for incoming 5th Grade students:
www.BellinghamMusic.org/join

Sincerely,

Robert Glynn

Steps to Officially Enroll in Band

1. Fill out both sides and return the "5th GRADE COURSE SELECTION" sheet. This will be distributed to all students on Friday, May 31, and **must** be returned to their homeroom teachers by Friday, June 7.
2. Enroll online at **www.BellinghamMusic.org/join**, if you are able to.
3. Rent an instrument (or loan a school instrument) at Instrument Rental Night on September 5, 2013. I will send out more details to you as this date approaches in the next school year.

Dates to Know

Friday, May 31: the BMMS 5th Grade Band will be traveling to the elementary schools to give your students a first-hand look at what the band program is all about. They will have a chance to see their former/future classmates making music after just a few months of study. Students will be given a "5th Grade Course Selection" sheet, and choose Band and/or Chorus, or neither.

Friday, June 7: The Course Selection sheet is due to your child's homeroom teacher. If he or she wishes to join Band, the enrollment form on the backside must also be completed.

Wednesday, June 19: the 4th grade classes will be coming to BMMS to meet their teachers for next year. During this time, we will have an "Instrument Petting Zoo" where students will get to try out every instrument we have to offer. If any student wishes to change their instrument choice, this needs to be communicated to me by the next day...

Thursday, June 20: This will be the last day to enroll in Band or change instrument selection. Any instrument changes must be emailed or called in to me by the end of the day.

Other Recommendations

- Come to the BMMS Spring Concert on Thursday, May 30 beginning at 6:30 PM in the BHS Auditorium. You will have a chance to see what the entire BMMS Band Program is all about.
- Contact me with any questions.
- Browse our website for the Online Enrollment Form for Band, How to Get an Instrument (renting, buying, or school-owned), Frequently Asked Questions, Program Overview, Information About the Different Instruments, and much more at:

www.BellinghamMusic.org/join