

Parents and students,

First off, let me tell you how excited I am for all of you to become members of the Twin Creeks Band. Whether you are choosing our virtual or in person options for school this year, know that we are committed to giving you the best musical education and experience possible.

We know that band helps to create some of the very best kids in Twin Creeks Middle School!

Below are a few things that parents regularly want to know or that I feel are important for you to understand about band. While we have a LOT of fun and students love being a part of our program, we do expect a lot from our students and want to ensure everyone is aware of the following:

1. Band takes hard work and practice. We are teaching and developing a skill that requires muscle memory. Like any physical skill, it must be practiced on a daily basis for a student to be successful (approximately 15-30 minutes per day).

2. Band is so different from anything else your child has ever done. They are going to be really bad at first. :) It's normal for kids to get frustrated from time to time, especially in the beginning. It is important for parents and band directors to be on the same team, encouraging our students to keep working a little at a time to make the progress that will make them feel successful and have a strong sense of pride later.

3. Band teaches students about responsibility, preparedness, teamwork, and self-reflection. Sometimes failure in a safe environment is the BEST way to learn. Our "mantra" is "It is okay to make mistakes! Mistakes are PROOF that you are trying!"

4.. Band does require some financial investment in your child's future. However, the benefits of this investment are tenfold.

Every instrument in the band is wildly important, and we promise to do our absolute best to place your child on an instrument that is going to be a positive experience for them. We need them to love their instrument so they will want to spend more time with it! Even during this time of social distancing, we will spend a LOT of time working to place your child appropriately. Please trust us!

Instrument Selection Sign Up:

Many of you still need to pick your instrument. How exciting!!! If you picked your instrument back in February, I still have record of the instrument we selected. If you have forgotten, please feel free to email me to follow up.

I have set up a few days and times for you to sign up to talk with our band staff about what instrument would be best for you and what you would be most successful at. Many popular instruments like percussion and flute fill up fast, so please make sure to sign up for a time. If you are unable to make any of the times listed, please email me and we can set up an appointment.

If you do not sign up for a time, we will be making phone calls to reach you and select an instrument. If we are unable to reach you, we will be selecting the instrument for you. Please make sure to sign up for a time so you can get your 1st pick. At this time, all instruments are still available.

Instrument Selection Days and Times

Time slots are 10 minutes each and will all be on zoom:

Monday, August 3rd 9 AM - 11 AM

Tuesday, August 4th 9 AM - 11 AM

Thursday, August 6th 4:30 - 5:30 PM

Friday, August 7th 4:30 - 5:30 PM

Saturday, August 8th 1-2 PM

Click to sign up for an instrument selection time: [Sign Up](#)

Instrument Options:

<https://youtu.be/CCTeSjpDsIs>

<http://www.tcmsband.org/instruments.html>

Please view one of the two videos listed above for the different instruments you can choose by clicking on the link.

Physical Attributes for each instrument:

We will be discussing hand size, mouth shape, and height. We know that the following questions are tedious but are very important aspects of instrument placement. Since we will not be able to physically see your child and watch how they interact with the different instruments, we must ask lots of questions so we can best understand how to place your child on an instrument that they will be successful with!

Renting an Instrument: Some instruments are rented from H&H music while others are rented from the school.

The district is still working on a process for you all to rent your instruments and obtain supplies. As soon as we know, I will email that to you. We always start the year learning how to read music and rhythm, so don't stress about having supplies or instruments when school starts up.

Band Expectations:

We hold our band students to very high behavior expectations both in our classroom and in their other classes. Band kids are the BEST kids everywhere!

Band is life-changing. Students who enter our program come out better humans and musicians. While most of this seems obvious, we want to make sure you understand that band is a special place at Twin Creeks Middle School and we take great pride in making our students awesome!

Welcome to Awesome!!

Welcome to the Twin Creeks Band Family!!!

Contact us:

chood1@springisd.org

(512) 900-2597

Connect with us on the Band App: <https://band.us/n/a6a430q8eeobQ>

www.tcmsband.org