

Dear Parents:

Today your child learned about the band program at South Middle School. They were given the opportunity to hear some of the band instruments and ask questions. All students are encouraged to try band. The only requirements are a willingness to learn something new, be a good team member and show a desire to have fun!

There is a four-step process to start your child on the road to musical success.

1. Presentation about the band program and demonstration of the band instruments.
2. Instrument Try-outs (Mouthpiece Try-Outs) in April-May
3. You and your student are invited to attend the Bands Spring Concert scheduled for May 10, 2010 at the High School PAC. Concert starts at 7:00p.m.
4. Mandatory meeting, music store display and Summer Band Sign-Up (Thursday, May 20, 2010 at South Middle in the cafeteria).

Step one was completed today. Please ask your child about the presentation and discuss their interest in participating in band.

Step two will be a hands on experience for your child. They will have the opportunity to try the following instruments: flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, french horn, trumpet, trombone, baritone and tuba. For students to try percussion they should have at least 2 years of piano experience. Following the try-out your child will pick their first choice of instrument and Mr. Hedding will recommend the two best instruments for your child. The instrument recommendations will be sent home with your child for you to sign and return to their elementary school office.

Step three is a chance for you and your child to hear a fun performance by the South Middle School Bands. This concert will take place on Monday, May 10, 2010 at the High School PAC. The concert will start at 7:00p.m.

Step four will allow you to talk to music store representatives about their instrument rental and purchase programs (**May 20, 2010 at 6:00pm first session, second session will start at 7:00pm at South Middle School in the Cafeteria**). All instruments will be delivered to the school prior to your first lesson. This will allow students to begin their learning in the proper way, which will increase their progress. You will also have an opportunity to sign your student up for summer band lessons at this meeting. We recommend that all beginning band students sign-up for summer band lessons. Your student will receive **8 group lessons** for only **\$25.00**. This is a savings of \$72.00 over the normal rate. We will start summer band lessons on Monday, June 7, 2010 and run the lessons for four weeks. Your student will have two lessons per week.

Your child's decision to participate in band should be carefully considered. While advantages of such study are evident, interest and commitment are necessary ingredients to success.

I appreciate your involvement in your child's musical development. Please feel free to contact me at 544-3175 Ext. 1175. Please look at our website at: www.bsmsband.com

Sincerely,
Brad Hedding