

JOIN THE BAND!

All rising 6th graders attending Tapp M.S. next year will have the opportunity to join the band this coming fall. The Tapp Bands are well-known for their excellence. They have continuously received superior ratings at District Band Festival, have many students selected to participate in District Honor Band and All-State Bands, and have performed as a featured performing band at the University of Georgia Middle School Band Festival twice. Most recently the 8th Grade Symphonic Band traveled to Chicago, Illinois to perform at the 2004 Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic, the most prestigious honor that can be achieved by a band.

WHY SHOULD I JOIN THE BAND?

1. It has been proven that involvement in music improves many of the skills used in academic courses. Students involved in music score higher on tests and receive better grades due to the math, thinking, and motor skills as well as the discipline required of the students each day.
2. Band is a class that your child can begin in 6th grade and continue all the way into high school. The middle and high school band directors work very closely to make sure your child receives a continuous curriculum 6th - 12th grade.
3. We start all students in the 6th Grade as beginners. You do not have to have any prior music experience to join the band.
4. Band promotes self-confidence and self-discipline, and at this age that is so important! When a child can learn to play an instrument well, the amount of pride instilled in that child is unbelievable. Students are also encouraged to practice on a daily basis which encourages self-discipline.
5. Band is a fun, positive experience!

HOW DO I JOIN THE BAND?

1. The Tapp M.S. Band Program will be having BAND open house nights for the parents and students August 7th and 8th from 6:00-9:00p.m. to come to the bandroom and meet the directors, see all the instruments, and get a chance to try some of them and get signed-up early!
2. The 1st week of school the students will be seeing a demonstration of all of the instruments in the band. They will be given a sign-up sheet for the three instruments they would like to try. If a student did not get signed-up at the open house, they will be signed-up the first two weeks of school during the school day.

3. Once the directors have selected the appropriate instrument for your child, a packet will be sent home with your child about renting and buying the instrument, what you will need for band class, and where to get it. Students signed-up for Tuba, Baritone, Horn, Bass Clarinet, Tenor Saxophone, or Bass Clarinet will not have to rent or buy the instrument, because it is provided by the school.
4. Once all students are signed-up on their instruments, band classes will then become a class in their daily schedule that will meet every day. Band will take the place of either P.E. or exploratory class. All band students will get all of the P.E., health, and exploratory classes that are offered 6th-8th grade while they are at Tapp.
5. The instruments offered in the band are:
FLUTE, OBOE, BASSOON, CLARINET AND BASS CLARINET, ALTO AND TENOR SAXOPHONE, TRUMPET, HORN, TROMBONE, BARITONE, TUBA, AND PERCUSSION (DRUMS AND BELLS).
Start thinking about what instruments you are interested in.

STARTING AN INSTRUMENT OVER THE SUMMER

1. It is not required that any student start an instrument over the summer, but if you have a child that knows without a doubt what instrument he/she would like to play, it is a good idea to get them a head start if you follow the suggestions we have.
2. Go ahead and rent or buy the instrument (see the list above of the instruments we offer in the band) , accessories, and Essential Elements Book 1 2000 at a local music store. Contact the bandroom at Tapp M.S. if you need some referrals.
3. Sign your child up IMMEDIATELY for PRIVATE LESSONS! There is nothing more important than making sure your child starts on the instrument correctly and with a good instructor. Private lessons are offered over the summer. E-mail Erin Cole (Tapp band director) at erin.cole@cobbk12.org for private lesson teacher referrals. If you are not able to start private lessons over the summer, we recommend waiting until school starts.
4. We encourage any student to start over the summer if private lessons are arranged. If you are able to arrange this for your child it will definitely motivate him/her early and allow him/her to become a better musician!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING ALL OF YOU AT THE BAND OPEN HOUSE NIGHTS AUGUST 7TH AND 8TH 6:00-9:00P.M. IN THE TAPP BANDROOM AND ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO YOU CHILD BEING A PART OF THE TAPP BAND PROGRAM!

Erin Cole
Tapp Band Director

