

Dear Parent/Guardian,

WELCOME TO THE HARPETH MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND FAMILY OR WHAT WE LIKE TO CALL BAMILY! We are so excited to have you join and participate in the legacy of the Harpeth Middle School Band Program. Below is a list of facts that we would like you to know about the upcoming year.

**Harpeth Middle School Band Contract & Overview**

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| **Band Events 2019-2020**  Harpeth Middle School Parent Night @HMS…………………………Thursday, August 8, 2019  HOUSE PLACEMENT NIGHT with the Sorting Hat!……………………………Tuesday, August 13, 2019 **6th Grade Instrumental Rental Meeting.............................................Thursday, August 15 or 22, 2019** 7th/8th Pep Rally @ HMS (During school)………………………TBA  6th Grade Pizza Beginning Woodwinds Band Camp…………………………………….Tuesday, August 27, 2019  6th Grade Pizza Beginning Brass/Percussion Band Camp……Thursday, August 29, 2019  6th Grade Beginner Concert @HMS……………………………Thursday, October 10, 2019  7th/8th Grade Homecoming Football Game Performance……………………….TBA  HMS+HHS Mass Band Bash Football Performance @HHS….Friday, October 11, 2019  Kick-off After School Jazz Band Rehearsal……………………..Tuesday, October 22, 2019  7th/8th Grade Football Game Performance……………………………………………..TBA  HHS Senior Night (8th Graders only) @HHS…………………………Friday, November 1, 2019  Tribe Pep Band Rehearsals/Games………………………….TBA  **Veteran’s Day Assembly (Grades 7/8)..........................................Monday, November 11, 2019 (school performance)……..Monday, November 11, 2019 (night performance)**  **Kingston Springs Christmas Tree Lighting (7th and 8th Grade)……………….TBA**  **Pleasant View Christmas Parade (Grades 7th and 8th)………………..Thursday, December 7, 2019**  **Pegram’s Elf in the Park Performance………………TBA**  **HMS Holiday Concert (Grades 6th, 7th, and 8th)….........................Thursday, December 12, 2019**  **HMS Band Christmas Party/Secret Santa……………..Friday, December 13, 2019**  **Kingston Springs Elementary School Holiday Recruitment Concert……………….Tuesday, December 17, 2019**  **HMS Holiday Concert for HMS…………………………….Thursday, December 19, 2019**  MTSBOA Mid-State Audition............................................................Saturday TBA  MTSBOA Mid-State Honor Band Clinic……………….January 2020  Concert Festival Concert (7th and 8th)…………………………….Tuesday, March 5, 2019  MTSBOA Concert Performance Assessment.....................................................Thursday, March 12, 2019  **HMS Spring Concert...........................................................................Tuesday, April 23, 2019**  **Community Performances around Kingston Springs………………….TBA**  **Gatlinburg Dollywood Music in the Parks Festival………………May 2019**  **HMS Band Banquet Reward…………………………………………..Friday, May 1, 2019**  **Recruitment Day @Kingston Springs Elementary………………………Tuesday, May 7, 2019**  **HMS 8th Grade Graduation..................................................................................TBD May 2019** |

**Schedule**

Band at Harpeth Middle School meets daily as a regular class! Students are expected to enter the room quietly and begin warm-ups on their instruments – these should be easy, soft to medium volume exercises that are easy to play but review basic technique. We will then play the group warmup, tune, and begin the day’s rehearsal, consisting of scales, music theory, rhythm counting, practice exercises, songs from their method books, and concert repertoire.

**Required Materials**

* **Band instrument and music at all rehearsals!!!**
* **Sound Innovations (Possibility of using a different repertoire book…please be open)….SOUND INNOVATIONS BOOK COSTS $9.00!!!**
* **Pencil** (highlighter also recommended for COPIED music)
* Flutes – Cleaning rod and cloth (EVERY DAY)
* Clarinets/Saxophones: 2 reeds (have a backup!), cleaning swab (EVERY DAY)
* Reed Prices: Clarinet $1.50 / Alto Sax $2.00
* Bass Clarinet & Tenor Sax $2.50 / Baritone Sax $3.50
* Trumpets/Horns/Trombones/Tuba: Valve/slide oil (oil weekly!)
* Percussion: At least one pair of 7A snare sticks

**Assessment**

* **Performances (40%) –** The student is required to attend and perform in all scheduled band performances. If a student misses a scheduled performance without submitting a 2-day prior written permission request, he or she will receive a performance grade of ‘0’ for that event.
* **Playing/Writing Tests (30%) –** The student will receive a grade for the weekly, quarter, and semester playing test. The material to be played will be assigned beforehand, and the test will occur during class on a selected day. The Tennessee Music Standards that we follow in class states that students are able to “play alone and in a group or ensemble.” Students will only be tested on material we have gone over in class.
* **Assignments (20%) –** Students are required to complete homework assignments to turn in the next given day. These assignments are assessments that go over the previous lesson to help the teacher plan for the next week.
* **Practice Journals (15%) –** Practice Records, when assigned, are turned in each Thursday for credit.  Place your practice records in the assignment box provided in the front of the classroom.  At least 150 minutes per week must be recorded on the practice record to receive credit for that week.  Practice records are due each Friday signed by a parent.

**Question and Answer**

**Do I need to own or be renting an instrument to join band?**

For most students, the best answer is yes, and this will also provide you with the best quality instrument to be learning on. The school owns some instruments, especially the large instruments that are so necessary but difficult to transport for student use. Students must sign out these instruments and return them in good condition at the end of the year. Families are responsible for repairs/maintenance on the school instrument the student is using, as well as necessities such as reeds or oil.

I've just spent all this money paying for an instrument for my kid, now you want her to play something else?

As bands develop, the need to add “color” instruments to fill out the band also grows. If we were to remove the oboe, bass clarinet, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, French horn, baritone and tuba from the band, the band is left sounding very weak and uninteresting. Unfortunately, many of these instruments are very difficult to start on in 4th or 5th grade, but can be just right in 7th or 8th grade. Or, maybe your trumpet player who loves band is starting to get frustrated because he can't play as high as everyone else in his section, and has been trying for a year with no improvement, though his low notes sound great. The horn or baritone may be just what he was looking for. If a student decides to change instrument, she is expected to continue playing that instrument for the rest of the year.

**What does my child need to wear during a performance?**

For the Harpeth Middle School Band, we expect excellent character and design for each student. The standard uniform attire for the HMS Band program is FORMAL WEAR. We want students to get the impression that we are being photographed for the county newspaper Bulletin Times. We do not want students wearing jeans, t-shirts, sneakers, or street clothes of any fashion. For parade performances, we require 7th and 8th grade band members to wear Khaki and Green Polo, a.k.a. school uniform. For MTSBOA Concert Festival, we want all our students to dress in performance black. It is a tradition for the Harpeth Middle School Band program to wear performance black to help with our uniformity in the band program.

**Do I need to know how to play an instrument?**

To play in band at HMS, you should have the experience you need from the band class you were in last year. If you have never played your band instrument before but would like to play, you are absolutely welcome to join. You are required to take after school lessons to keep up with the other students in the classroom. If new to band, we will pair you up with a HMS Tribe buddy to take accountability of your work and progress.

**Are there any more performing ensembles in band?**

OF COURSE!! The Harpeth Middle School Band Program has other ensembles that we want your child to participate in. The ensembles we have our:

* 7th/8th grade Jazz Band
* Parade Band
* Basketball Drum Squad/Pep Band
* Trash Can Band
* Leadership Ensemble
* Chamber Ensemble
* Percussion Ensemble

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**What do I need to have besides my instrument?**

Not required for band but can help for home practice use (in order of necessity):

1. Digital Metronome ($20) – *Or the free website, MetronomeOnline.com*
2. Music Stand (folding or standard) ($30-40) – *If you're going to purchase a folding stand, there are much sturdier folding stands available than the “wire” stands that have become associated with folding stands.*
3. Chromatic Tuner ($15) – *This is really only helpful if taking private lessons.*

**Are there opportunities for parents to be involved?**

Why of course!!!!! We have many opportunities for parents to be involved by:

* Providing snacks for certain reward programs
* Being involved in the football concession stand
* Being a positive member of the Tribe Band Program
* Being involved with social media
* Help participate in fundraising
* Help chaperone band field trips

**Discipline Plan for the classroom**

Chances are, if you earned a punishment, you have violated a policy in your student handbook, and must follow the consequences of your action. Examples include:

* *Late to class: Warning*
* *Gum chewing: Warning for first offense, progressive discipline for further actions*
* *Disrupting class: progressive (class warning/conference with student, parent phone call, office referral)*
* *Swearing, etc.: accidentally in conversation; directed, Office Referral*
* *Cell Phones: phone placed in desk on first offense, turned into office on repeat offense.*
* *Insubordination (disobedience): Parent Teacher Conference then if it is progressive office referral*
* *Harassment/Bullying/Fighting: Office referral*

**Harpeth Tribe System Reward Program!**

The Harpeth Tribe Houses will be divided into four houses (6th-8th grade band members). The students will be divided 20 students in each group. The tribes are:

* Allegro Tribe
* Andante Tribe
* Moderato Tribe
* Adagio Tribe

The Marching Band Sorting Hat will be dividing the students into their tribes on house night. Over the semester, students will be involved with challenges and games to help their tribe win at the end of the year.

#### *customLogo*Student Signature

By signing this contract, I understand that I commit to the Harpeth Middle School Band for the 2019-2020 school year, and that it is my responsibility to attend all the performances that my grade is performing in, except in case of illness or family emergency, where I will have my parent notify the school.

I will do my best to make music of the highest quality, demonstrate a positive attitude and treat others with respect as a representative of the Harpeth Middle School Band.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student

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#### Parent Signature

I fully support my child's excitement about music, and understand the terms and conditions detailed in this contract. I have also noted the performance dates on my calendar for the year and understand that my child has a responsibility to the band to attend and perform. I will do my best to assist my child in obtaining any materials that would be helpful to his/her musical experience. I will also keep up the maintenance on my child’s instrument to ensure it is of proper quality. If I have any questions, I know that I may contact Chris Vaughn at Harpeth Middle School, (615) 952-2293, chrpvaug@gmail.com

Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent of above student

Parents, please circle your choice in the statements below.

* \_\_\_\_ I would be interested in volunteering to supervise at concerts.
* \_\_\_\_ I would be interested in being considered as a chaperone for band trips.
* \_\_\_\_ I would be interested in finding out more information on signing my child up for

after school lessons

Instrument(s) he/she would like lessons on: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* \_\_\_\_ I would like to be contacted regarding significant changes in my child's attitude or performance. My contact information is:

Best e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Best phone (Cell and Home) # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_