

Hempfield Middle School Band
August 25, 2015

Dear Middle School Band Students and Parents,

Welcome back to school. I am very excited to work with the students in the band. If you are new to the middle school band, please be aware that in middle school band is a class not a pull-out from other classes. Please also know that in the middle school, there are no lessons or sectionals, only full band rehearsals. We encourage all students, if possible, seek lessons on their instrument from a specialist in the community. I can provide a list of local teachers. This will help the students to make consistent progress on their instrument.

The students will receive a grade on their report card. There is a change in grading for both band and orchestra at the middle school this year. The report cards will only show band and orchestra grades in quarters 2 and 4. Individual playing assignments will be submitted using a computer program called Schoology. This can be completed at home or using one of the computers in the practice rooms here in the band area at school during lunch. Each of our three performances will be a summative assessment for the unit of study involving the music we perform. Band is a performance class and participation in the concerts is a class expectation.

All of our performances will combine the bands from CMS and LMS. Each performance will have one rehearsal to put the two bands together. The performance dates this year are:

First Performance: October 9 at the HS Varsity Football Game (Report at 5:45)
Rehearsal October 6, 3:00 PM until 5:00 PM, Rain date October 7.
Rehearsal location is the field along Kauffman Rd across from the performing arts center. CMS students will be bussed to the rehearsal.
All students will need to be picked up after the rehearsal.

Winter Concert: December 14 7:00 PM at the PAC(Performing Arts Center)
Rehearsal December 14 3:00 PM until 4:30 PM (PAC)

Spring Concert: May 11 7:30 PM, CMS Auditorium
Rehearsal May 11 Noon until 3:30 PM CMS Auditorium

So that the students can be successful, please make sure that their instruments are kept in good repair or "playing condition." Please make sure that the students have a steady supply of the consumables for their particular instrument such as reeds, valve oil, and slide grease. Other items the students will need include a lyre for all woodwind and brass players, and straight mutes for trumpets. Percussion students should have a good pair of concert style drum sticks such as Vic Firth SD1.

A copy of this letter and local teacher lists will be available through Sapphire parent portal, in the band resources of Schoology and on the band website. The band website can be accessed at bands.hempfieldsd.org. Once there, click on the middle school tab

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to access the information for middle school band. Please let me know if you have any questions about the band program at the middle school. I travel between the middle schools so the easiest way to contact me is by e-mail colin_mccaskey@hempfieldsd.org. I can also be reached by phone. I am at CMS on Odd cycle days 898-5580, and I am at LMS on Even cycle days 898-5607. The best time to call me is usually from 10:45 - 11:15 or 2:45 - 3:00. Please return the bottom of this letter so that I know you have received the information about middle school band.

Colin R. McCaskey

Hempfield Middle School Band Director

Keep this part

Please Return this part on or before September 8

Student Name _____ Date _____

Parent Name _____ Parent Signature _____

Parent Phone Number(s) _____

Parent e-mail _____

By signing this, I acknowledge that my student will participate in the middle school band program and perform with the band at the performances. I also give permission for my child to ride the bus the the rehearsals.