West Ridge MS Beginning Band

2019-2020

WHY STUDY MUSIC?

• A study of 7,500 university students revealed that music majors scored the highest reading scores among all majors including English, biology, chemistry and math.

• Students of lower socioeconomic status who took music lessons in grades 8-12 increased their math scores significantly as compared to non-music students.

• A Columbia University study revealed that students in the arts are found to be more cooperative with teachers and peers, more self-confident and better able to express their ideas.

• At-risk students who are involved in music programs are less likely to drop out of school.

WHY STUDY BAND?

• Research has proven a direct correlation between improved test scores and the length of time spent studying instrumental music.

• U.S. Department of Education data show that students who report consistently high levels of involvement in instrumental music during the middle- and high-school years show "significantly higher levels of mathematics proficiency by grade 12."

• Instrumental Music Education promotes creativity and cognitive ability that give job applicants a competitive advantage in seeking high-skill jobs.

• Instrumental music education develops traits such as critical thinking, creative problem solving, effective communication and team work. These are skills that are viewed to be essential for success in the 21st Century workforce.

WHO ELSE THINKS MUSIC IS IMPORTANT?

• "Studying Music encourages self-discipline and diligence, traits that carry over into intellectual pursuits and lead to effective study and work habits." …Michael DeBakey, heart surgeon

• "Music is about communication, creativity, and cooperation, and, by studying music in school, students have the opportunity to build on these skills, enrich their lives, and experience the world from a new perspective."…Bill Clinton, 42nd U.S. President

• Music is exciting. Music is important. It says things your heart can't say in any other way and in a language everyone speaks.…Dan Rather, CBS News

• Music education opens doors that help children pass from school into the world around them - a world of work, culture, intellectual activity, and human involvement. The future of our nation depends on providing our children with a complete education that includes music." …Gerald Ford,38th U.S. President

• "The Arts have a crucial impact on our economy and are an important catalyst for learning, discovery, and achievement in our country." … Paul G. Allen, co-founder of Microsoft

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Band classes are full-year courses, and it is best for students to start learning a band instrument in the sixth grade, in order to develop skills needed for high school and to remain with their age group through middle school. Our classes meet in like-instrument groups every day.

Instruction is available for the following instruments:

- Flute
- Clarinet
- Oboe
- Bassoon
- Saxophone
- Trumpet
- French horn
- Trombone
- Baritone
- Percussion

Students interested in tuba should start on the baritone.

TEACHERS

Mrs. Susan Glover Ms. Alanna Tate Mr. Scott Lowe

PRIOR EXPERIENCE

NO prior musical experience is necessary to join the band. Previous piano instruction will benefit a student no matter which instrument they select to play in the band. The majority of our students are "true beginners". If you don't know how to read music, we'll help you learn that too!

PERFORMANCES

Students in band participate in many activities, including concerts, All-Region Band auditions, UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest, solo and ensemble festivals, private lessons, and a spring trip to a music festival and Six Flags. Sixth graders will participate in some, but not all, of these activities.

HOW MUCH PRACTICE IS INVOLVED?

Band students will be given daily assignments, however the amount of homework does not exceed that of any other 6th grade class. This is the only way to make good progress in learning to play an instrument.

CAN I BE IN BAND AND PLAY SPORTS?

Most of our students participate in many other activities while in band, including sports and foreign languages. It is also possible to continue band through high school without taking the optional high school level courses in middle school.

DOES WRMS PROVIDE INSTRUMENTS?

Most students rent their instrument from a local music dealer. The school district provides some of the more expensive instruments for a small fee. We will provide you with that information once your child selects their instrument. Financial assistance is available. Please don't hesitate to ask.

HOW TO BEGIN….

STEP 1

The process of instrument selection will begin after your child selects Beginning Band on the choice sheet. You will receive a letter about a very important meeting on **Tuesday, February 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the Westlake High School Band Hall.** At this meeting we will inform you in more detail about the WRMS Band program, and your child will be given more specific information on each of the instruments. **At this meeting, we will also ask you to sign up for an instrument interview appointment.**

STEP 2

Instrument Interviews will take place on **Saturday, March 2, in the WHS Band Hall**. You and your child will come at the assigned time with three instrument choices in mind. Your child will have the opportunity to try each of these three instruments in the presence of a band director, in order to determine the instrument choice that is best for them. At this event there will also be information concerning instrument rental or purchase. If you plan to use a family-owned instrument, please bring it with you.

Questions?

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