

Meridian Junior High Band

The logo for Meridian Junior High Band features the text "Meridian Junior High Band" in a stylized, slanted, yellow-to-gold gradient font. Below the main text, the words "Meridian Junior High Band" are repeated in a smaller, similar font, with a large, stylized yellow-to-gold gradient musical note (resembling a treble clef) positioned to the right of the text.

Sign Up Information

Sign up Night for 6th Grade Band!

It is that time of year again! Sign up for next year's 6th grade band!

WHEN DO WE SIGN UP?

The sign up night will be Thursday, May 21st from 3:30-7:00 pm in the Monroe Center Gym.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST TO SIGN UP

There is not a charge to sign up for band. Guzzardo's Music will be available to talk with all students about renting or purchasing an instrument. You will be able to make a deposit on an instrument to reserve it for summer lessons and the next school year, but this not something you have to do on the 18th.

WHAT SHOULD I BRING TO SIGN UP NIGHT?

All you need to sign up for band is a parent with you that night. If you do not have a parent with you, you will not be able to reserve a spot on an instrument.

HOW WILL I PICK MY INSTRUMENT?

After the performance of the 6th grade band you should have selected your top three instruments. You will be able to try those during school and also at sign up night so your parents can help you choose the instrument that is right for you. The band directors will also help you pick an instrument that you will be able to be successful on.

ARE THE INSTRUMENTS LIMITED IN NUMBER?

Yes, most of the instruments have a limited number of spaces available. We will take students on a first come first serve basis. Once all of the spots are filled, you will need to select a different instrument.

CAN I GET A USED INSTRUMENT?

Yes, you may get a used instrument for class. All instruments that are not purchased through Guzzardo's Music must be pre-approved by the band director. This will enable us to make sure that you have an instrument that will enable the entire band to sound good, and also one that will not fall apart while you are playing it.

Yes, you may purchase your new or used instrument from another store or dealer, but it must be pre-approved by the band director. There are many music stores that offer cheap prices on instruments, and most of these dealers (including EBAY and other internet sites) know little to nothing about how the instruments are played or how to repair them. As the saying goes " you get what you pay for." **PLEASE DO NOT PURCHASE INSTRUMENTS ON THE INTERNET!!!!!!!!!!**

What does band cost....

The first concern of most parents is the cost of participating in band. We offer many different solutions to make band affordable to every student that would like to participate. The music store that we work with is called GUZZARDO'S MUSIC. Guzzardo's offers many different ways of purchasing a new or used instruments.

Option 1: Purchasing a new instrument on the spot for a lower cost.

Option 2: Rent to own the instrument for a small monthly payment. If at any time you choose to pay off the instrument before the rental term is completed, you will be given a percentage discount.

Option 3: Purchase a used instrument. If you find a used instrument, please not purchase it until either Mr. Eaton, Mrs. Haas, or a representative from Guzzardo's Music approve it. Some places sell pieces of junk for cheap prices, (we call them **Instrument Like Objects**) and that will result in a negative experience for your child. **Please do not purchase instruments on the Internet.**

We also have some larger instruments that students can borrow from the school, however these are not in the best condition, and will be distributed on a first come first serve basis. There is a small maintenance fee for using these instruments, and students will be responsible for any damage that they cause.

We try our hardest to make sure that the cost of the instrument is never a reason for keeping students out of band. If you have questions on how to make band affordable, please talk to us at sign up night.

Example prices for instrument rental:

Each instrument has several brands to choose from. Prices are based on monthly payments and you own the instruments after 30 months.

Flute \$16 - \$29
Oboe \$55 - \$68
Clarinet \$24 - \$30
Alto Sax \$50 - \$70
Tenor Sax \$45 - \$95
Trumpet \$14 - \$37
Trombone \$19 - \$32
Baritone \$32 - \$42

In addition to the instrument, every student will be required to purchase a lesson book (3 total in 6-8th grade) and they cost \$7.95. The beginning band lesson book comes with an instructional DVD with music software that you can download for free.

Does band conflict with sports?

At Meridian Junior High and Stillman Valley High School, band does not conflict with any after school sports. Band only practices during school hours. In Junior High, the only after school requirement is for concert, (4 to 5 year) and they are scheduled on nights where there are no sporting events. High School also avoids conflicts with sports while scheduling concerts. Football players, basketball players, cheerleaders, and poms are all able to be in the band without missing out on any of their games or performances in high school. Mr. Eaton and Mrs. Haas highly encourage students to participate in both band and sports, both of them were in sports while they were in junior high and high school. 140 out of 170 students in the Meridian Junior High Bands program are involved in some sports during the school year.

We would also like you to know that all throughout JH and HS, it is possible to be in both choir and band. You never have to choose between both classes.

Summer Lessons

In the summer the band directors teach beginning band lessons to all of the new band students. Lessons will be in the mornings in the Junior High School Band room. There will be signs posted in the school telling you where the room is. **You will be able to pick up your instruments rented from Guzzardo's Music at your first lesson.** These summer lessons are given to make sure the students develop good playing habits from the very beginning. At the beginning of the school year, everything learned in the lessons will be reviewed in band because we understand that you already have camp, vacations, and other summer activities scheduled. Not everyone can attend these summer lessons. We will give you a schedule of exactly when it is your turn to come, but for now please try to keep these weeks open. **THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR THESE LESSONS.** All lessons will be held in time frame 9:00 am to noon on Monday through Thursday, depending on what instrument group you will be assigned in.

July 20th-23rd
July 27th-30th
Aug. 3rd - 6th



PARENT PAGE:

WHY SHOULD MY SON OR DAUGHTER BE IN BAND?

"Many universities studies conclude that music training generates the neural connections used for abstract reasoning, including those necessary for understanding mathematical concepts." (Shaw and Raucher UW Oshkosh)

"Music is a core academic subject in the No Child Left Behind Act" (Title IX)

"The College Board indentifies the arts as one of the six basic academic subjects students need in order to succeed in college." (College Board, NY)

"The arts make better math and science students, enhance spatial intelligence, and are a compelling solution to teen violence." (Michael Green, CEO of 42nd Annual Grammy Awards)

"In 2001 students participating in music score higher on the SAT's than students with no arts participation: 57 points higher on verbal, 44 points higher on math." (College Board Seniors National Report)

"The instrumentalist in constantly adjusting decisions on tempo, tone, style, rhythm, phrasing, and feeling - training the brain to become incredibly good at organizing and conducting numerous activities at once." (John Ratey M. D. User's Guide to the Brain.)

"Secondary students who participate in band or orchestra reported the lowest lifetime and current use of all substances (alcohol, illicit drugs)." (Houston Chronicle)

"Many colleges view participation in the arts and music as a valuable experience that broadens the students' understanding and appreciation of the world around them." (College Board, NY)

"The very best engineers and technical designers in the Silicon Valley industry are, nearly without exception, practicing musicians." (Center for Arts in the Basic Curriculum, NY)

"Music participants receive more academic honors and awards than non-music students, and the percentage of music participants receiving A's and B's is higher than the percentage of non-participants receiving those grades." (National Center for Educational Statistics, DC)

"Studying music encourages self-discipline and diligence, traits that carry over into intellectual pursuits and lead to effective study and work habits. Creating and performing music promotes self-expression and provides self-gratification while giving pleasure to others." (Michael E. DeBakey M. D., Heart Surgeon)