

Haines Middle School Band

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Band Directors

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Dear Incoming Band Students and Parents:

Welcome to the Haines Middle School Band program. We are looking forward to getting to know you, making some great music, and having a good time. We are glad to see your support of the arts as there is a growing body of research that is showing that a child's cognitive development is centered on their involvement in the arts. Hopefully, some of the following bits of information will answer some questions you may have. If you have any other questions please don't hesitate to call or email us.

If you have received this mailing incorrectly as you are moving out of our area, or your child is not continuing, please contact us immediately!! Your child is currently registered for the class and we would need to change their class schedule before fee day in August to avoid class roster mistakes.

When we rehearse- The 6th grade bands rehearse every day during one half of 4th hour. This is also the lunch period. The opposite part of the period the students eat lunch.

Books- We will use the Alfred Publishing's Accent on Achievement Book II and the Belwin Note Speller book. The books can be purchased through Quinlan and Fabish music at 654-4111 or the music store in town- Full Staff Music- 513-7117 on Main street (across from Thompson).

Metronomes – For home practice, we highly recommend having a metronome. We encourage people to get the Sabine tuner/metronome. It can also be purchased at any music store or supplier.

Lessons- Each 6th grade student will have a 20 minute lesson once a week in addition to the full group rehearsals. Students taking private lessons with another adult teacher can opt not to have the lesson with us. A list of recommended private teachers is available in the band room.

Concert Dates-

Thursday, November 15, 2007	6:30 p.m.	Fall Concert
Thursday, May 15, 2008	7:30 p.m.	Spring Concert

Grades- Each student is given a grade in band that counts in the student's GPA as half of another class (because we meet for only half of a period). Grades will be based on daily practice, note speller workbook pages, the quarter playing test, and attendance at the concerts. Attendance at the concerts is **required** because the main focus of a performance group is to perform. The performances are the equivalent of a test given in any other class.

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Choir/Orchestra- Many of our students play in orchestra or sing in choir as well as participate in band. Choir and Orchestra both rehearse during the same period, so we just work out a schedule with the students on which days they should go to which group. It sounds a little difficult now, but once the school year gets going the students will see how it works, and it will just become routine.

Jazz- We have had an extensive jazz program at Haines for a number of years. The Jazz Bands are open to students in all grades that play Jazz Band instruments. If they play a band instrument they must also be in the concert band. For instance Trumpet, Trombone, Saxophone students must be in the concert band program, but guitar, bass and piano players are not in concert band but can still participate in the jazz groups. These groups meet before school.

Band Website - We have a band website. Come check it out!!!!

www.hainesmusic.org

Whenever we hand anything out to the students we also put it on the website. We try to keep that site as up to date as possible.

Sincerely,

Erik Swenson

John Blank