



Autrey Mill Middle School Band

Autumn Smith, Director of Bands

6th Grade Welcome Letter

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to Autrey Mill Middle School! My name is Autumn Smith, and I am the Director of Bands here at AMMS. I am excited to be working with our students this year and looking forward to helping your child start his or her journey in music. As we start this year, we will be learning about our classroom and emergency procedures, learn about behavior expectations for the culture of our school, meet our fellow musicians, and get an overview of how band class works before we move into music theory and instrument selection.

There are always a lot of questions at the beginning of this journey because students are eager to learn an instrument. The information provided below and/or distributed in class to your child over the next few weeks will be helpful in beginning to answer those questions.

To save some paper and provide you with information that is easy to access, much of our paperwork and information will be posted on our band website. **To access the band website, go to ammsband.org or scan the QR code at the bottom right corner of this page.**

Once on the site, click on the AMMS Program Information tab to access files for the First Steps Welcome Letter, Band Handbook, Course Syllabus, Music Store List and additional information about our program as needed throughout the year.

The Band Handbook serves as the operating guidelines for our band program. Please make sure you and your student have read through it completely as it contains important information, policies, procedures, grading information, assignment information, supply lists, helpful tips, suggestions for parents of musicians and more.

The **Band Calendar** tab contains all of our Concert dates, events, Fine Arts Activities and important due dates.

The **Honor Bands and Events** tab will house information about the GMEA Solo and Ensemble Event, GMEA All-State/District Honor Band Auditions, "Trunk or Treat" with the JCHS Band, 8th Grade Night at the JCHS Football Game and more!

The **Band Online Payments** tab has links to all OSP (Online School Payments) needs for Band supplies/events. Other than instruments and instrument supplies, we do most of our fees upfront that would be collected throughout the year. **The fee is \$100 total. This fee covers uniforms, band binder system, start-up clinic fees, clinicians/instructors, method books, and more.**

ITEMS TO NOTE:

- **The New Parent Information Meeting is on August 12th from 6:00-6:30pm via Teams.** A meeting link will be sent out via email and the Band App. This will be a brief informative session to go over any questions or concerns you may have regarding the band program that have not already been answered by the band handbook or this letter.
- **Our Instrument Testing Night is August 14th from 5:30-8:30pm.** All sixth-grade students are expected to be in attendance. *Please wait to obtain an instrument until after your student is assigned to an instrument!* 😊
- **The 6th Grade Start-Up Clinic is on August 28th from 2:15-5:30pm.** All sixth-grade students should have an instrument at this point and be ready to play!



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Q: Does my student need experience?

A: No! The students will learn how to read music, play an instrument, and perform through their middle school band career (6th grade - 8th grade). If your child already knows how to play an instrument (most likely from a previous school system or state), they will get positive reinforcement and a refresher on the fundamentals of music. This instruction will only make him or her better at what they already do well.

Q: Should I purchase an instrument?

A: NO! Please wait until after our Instrument Fitting Night to obtain an instrument.

Q: When do students start playing instruments?

A: Students will begin playing everyday in class on August 28th at our 6th Grade Start Up Clinic.

Q: What supplies are needed to start the course?

A: 1" three ring black binder, sheet protectors, & dividers (binders, 3 sheet protectors & dividers included with fees to AMMS Band), Pencil, Notebook paper, Laptop, Agenda (provided by AMMS), Box of Kleenex/Hand Sanitizer for the classroom.

Q: Once students start with instruments, is there a place to leave them during the school day?

A: Yes, there are cubbies in the band room where the students can leave their instruments in the morning before school starts on the way to homeroom. Instrument cases **MUST** be labeled before leaving them in the storage room during the day.

Q: Do instruments go home every day?

A: Yes. Practicing is Band Homework. Reinforcement of each day's class is crucial to the students' success and continued growth. Tuba students will be given an at-home tuba for practice.

DUE ON AUGUST 16TH:

1. Read this letter – DONE!
2. Read the AMMS Band Handbook
 - a. Detach, sign, and return the Parent/Student agreement
3. Pay the yearly \$100 Band Operations Fee via OSP.
 - a. OSP Payments can be found on the band website (ammsband.org) or on AMMS OSP.
4. Fill out the digital Student Information Sheet
5. Help your student musician obtain additional classroom supplies and/or donations if possible.
 - a. We are in need of financial donations, tissues, band-aids, Clorox wipes, hand sanitizer, AA batteries, standard size balloons, and ping-pong balls.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

EMAIL: smitha7@fultonschools.org

WEBSITE: www.ammsband.org

BAND APP:



AMMS OSP:

