



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.

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](http://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 **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.**

Students will create a bookmark on their laptop to the Band website once we receive devices. They will use this site for event updates and for some of our band resources. Please bookmark this site and refer to it often for information assistance.





## What Do I Do Now?

1. Read through ALL AMMS Band Program documents on the band website.
  - Course Syllabus
  - AMMS Band Handbook
  - Operations Letter
  - Solo & Ensemble Letter
  - All-State/District Honor Band Letter
1. Put all AMMS Band Calendar dates on your family calendar.
2. Pay yearly \$100 - Band Operations Fee.
  - a. Card payment only. No cash, checks, Zelle, Venmo, etc. OSP Payments can be paid through links located on the band website (ammsband.org).
3. Fill out the digital Student Information Sheet/Band Operations Form (**DUE AUGUST 18TH**)
  - a. Make sure you have paid the Online Band Operations Fee BEFORE completing the Student Information Sheet, as it will ask for a receipt number from OSP.
4. Read about Solo and Ensemble, All-State, and District Honor Band. These are three competitive and honorary events.
  - a. **Fall Solo and Ensemble Registration DUE SEPTEMBER 26TH.**
  - b. **All-State/District Honor Band Audition Registration DUE OCTOBER 3RD.**
    - i. Our district has two District Honor Bands for middle school. This doubles the opportunities in each instrument section for this event. To tryout you must register for the All-State auditions as the District Band is chosen from this audition. Etudes and scales are posted on the GMEA website and will be distributed in class.
5. **8th Grade Parents** – Read through the 8th Grade Night @ JCHS Football game letter (Events Tab) and sign the acknowledgement form to be returned with your student. This is our first concert of the year, and it is in a very different format – we are performing with the JCHS Marching Gladiator Band at a home football game. **DUE: August 25, 2023.**
6. Help your child obtain additional classroom supplies and/or donations if possible.
  - a. We are in need of: financial donations, Kleenex tissues, Band Aids, Clorox wipes, hand sanitizer, 9 volt/AA batteries, puppy pads, ping pong balls, standard size balloons



## Items to Note:

1. Band Supplies should be brought to class every day: Band binder (same from last year), class assignments, notes/worksheets. laptop, pencils, and agenda.
2. Over the next couple of weeks, we will begin daily routines, warm-up exercises, learn music fundamentals such as notes/rests/reading music, and begin learning about instrument families and instruments in preparation of our instrument testing night. Students will have a classroom procedures quiz (read the band handbook and use as a study guide) and music theory pre-test.
3. **Students have instrument cubbies to leave instruments each morning. Instruments should go home EVERY day for practice time. Practicing the instrument is homework for Band EVERY night.**

## Important Dates:

- 8/14/23 - 1st day with instruments
- 8/17/23 @ 8:00am - 1st Jazz Band Rehearsal
- 8/18/23 - Digital Student Information Sheet, Band Operations Form, Band Operations Fee, Instrument Rental Form, Percussion Usage Form and Instrument Rental Fees due.
- 8/25/23 - 8th Grade Only - Event Acknowledgement Form
- 9/26/23 - Solo & Ensemble Registration Due
- 10/3/23 - All-State/District Honor Band Registration Due



AMMS BAND WEBSITE



OSP

I am looking forward to an amazing and successful school year with our student musicians at Autrey Mill Middle School. Thank you for allowing me to teach your students and I wish you a great year!

Musically,



Autumn Smith  
Director of Bands

## Contact:

Email: [smitha7@fultonschools.org](mailto:smitha7@fultonschools.org)

Remind101: Text code to 81010.

- 7th Grade: @ammsband7
- 8th Grade: @ammsband8
- Jazz Band: @ammsjazz23