



Autrey Mill Middle School Band

Wendy Wilson, Director of Bands

7th & 8th Grades

August 12, 2021

WELCOME to the 2021-2022 edition of the Autrey Mill Middle School Band!

We have had a GREAT start to the school year and I'm excited to be working with your students this year. I am looking forward to helping your child start his/her journey in music and learn to play an instrument so we can begin making music together. As we start the year we will be learning about our new classroom and emergency procedures, take time to know our classmates, practice class procedures, learn about behavior expectations for the culture of our school, and get an overview of how the Band works and what next steps we need to take.

To save some paper and provide you with information that is easy to access, much of our beginning of the year paperwork and information will be posted on our band website.



To access the band website, go to ammsband.org or scan the QR code on 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 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, and procedures, grading information, assignment information, supply lists, helpful tips, and suggestions for parents of musicians, and more.

The **Band Calendar** tab contains all 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, 8th Grade Night at the JCHS Football game, South Star Music Festival Performance, 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 and covers uniforms, band binder system, band clinic fees, clinicians/instructors, and method books.**

Students should have created a shortcut on their iPad home screen to the Band website. 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?

- Read through ALL AMMS Band Program documents on the band website.
 - Welcome Letter – Read this entire document
 - Course Syllabus
 - AMMS Band Handbook
 - Operations Letter
 - Supply List
 - Instrument/Percussion Rental Forms
 - Solo & Ensemble Letter
 - All-State/DHB Letter
- Put all AMMS Band Calendar dates on your family calendar.
- Fill out the digital Student Information Sheet/Band Operations Form DUE: August 20, 2021
- Pay yearly \$100 - Band Operations Fee. Credit Card only – no cash/checks (OSP Credit Card Payments can be made through links located on the band website.) ammsband.org
 - DUE: August 20, 2021
- Fill out and return the Instrument Rental Form/Percussion Usage Form and rental fee if applicable. DUE: August 20, 2021
- Read about the GMEA Solo and Ensemble event and the GMEA All-State/District Honor Band Auditions. These two honor/competitive events. **This is a great opportunity for all students and one of the best ways to get better as a musician at your individual instrument!**
 - Solo & Ensemble Registration: DUE: September 14, 2021
 - All-State / District Honor Band Audition Registration: DUE: September 30, 2021
 - *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.
- 8th Grade Parents – (Will be posted soon.) 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: TBA
- Help your child additional obtain classroom supplies and/or donations if possible:
 - Kleenex, sheet protectors, pencils, etc.
- Help your child obtain classroom supplies and/or donations: Instrument, extra reeds, valve oil, sticks/mallets, sheet protectors, mouthpieces, pencils, cork grease, valve oil, Kleenex etc.
DUE: ASAP

Donations: (\$\$\$, band aids, Clorox wipes, Hand Sanitizer w/ Aloe, 9 volt/AA batteries, puppy pads, ping pong balls)

Important Upcoming Events and Items to Note:

1. Band Instruments and Supplies should be brought to class every day: Band Binder (provided with operations fee), Class assignments, notes/worksheets, iPad, 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 can expect more written homework/worksheets during the first 9 weeks as we learn to read music. Establishing strong fundamentals makes learning to physically play an instrument easier as students are not having to learn multiple concepts at one time.
4. **Jazz Band** – Rehearsals on Thursdays 8:00 – 8:45AM / Informational interest meeting this Thursday August 19, 2021 @ 8:30AM in the Band Room.
5. **Full Band Rehearsals** as scheduled on Wednesdays 8:00 – 8:45AM.
6. 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.
7. Over the next couple of weeks, we will begin daily routines, warm-up exercises, practice on fundamentals, sight reading, and working as an ensemble. Students will have a classroom procedures quiz (read the band handbook and use as a study guide) and music theory pre-test.

I am looking forward to another amazing and successful year with our student musicians at AMMS. Thank you for allowing me to teach your students and I wish you a great year!

Musically yours,

Wendy Wilson

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