



## AUTREY MILL MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band

“First Steps”

Overview and Introduction

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Welcome to the AMMS Band! Congratulations on a GREAT decision to allow your child to learn to play an instrument and become a member of the band!

In addition to learning about music your child will also learn invaluable life skills, productive habits, how music involves all academic subjects, and the value of hard work. Students will experience being part of a team, working with others, and will make lots of great friendships that often last a lifetime. Most of all, learning to play an instrument is fun and an activity that students can enjoy even as an adult.

The performances and concerts are always the favorite activity that everyone gets so excited about, however, the journey to be able to perform beautiful music and become a great musician requires time, patience, determination, practice, consistency, and hard work. Whether you, as a parent, have or have not had formal musical training or band experiences yourself, the process can feel overwhelming. Not only will students be learning but it is an education for parents as well. There will be much to learn about music and the AMMS Band program throughout the year.

To make the process less intimidating and overwhelming, we will take each component one step at a time. Our year long journey to learning to play an instrument will begin with an introduction to music theory and the fundamentals of music. We will learn how to read notes on the staff, counting rhythms, instrument families, and much more.

As the 1<sup>st</sup> nine weeks progresses, students will learn about tone production and how instruments are grouped. Students will learn about all instruments in band and will choose their top four choices. A variety of evaluations will be used to help determine which instrument might be a good fit for each student. Professional musicians and instructors will come in to help us do instrument fittings. Students will try out different instruments and see which one might be a good fit for them. A recommendation of instrument will then be made for all students so we can progress to the next phase of learning. More information will be provided as we get to this phase.

For right now, don't worry about a band instrument and please do not go purchase/rent one. There are always a couple of students that move in with prior experience and that experience will help him/her along the way. If your child does not know how to read music or anything about instruments don't worry, he/she is right on track as the curriculum for instrumental music education begins in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Everyone will start together so that everyone is on the same page.

Thank you! I am looking forward to an AWESOME year teaching your young musicians!

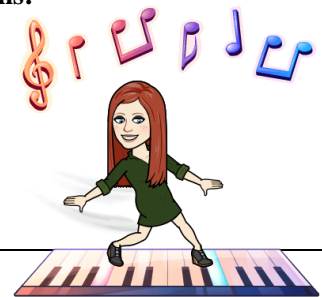
Musically yours,

*Wendy Wilson*

Wendy Wilson

Director of Bands

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**What should I do right now? (Parents and Students):**

- ♪ Please read the Welcome Letter & FAQ sheet about 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Beginning Band.
- ♪ Visit our AMMS Band website and read documents on the AMMS Program Information tab. ([www.ammsband.org](http://www.ammsband.org))
- ♪ Read the course syllabus, expectations, and grading procedures.
- ♪ Familiarize yourself with the AMMS Band Handbook. It is recommended that students and parents read it together.
- ♪ Put ALL AMMS Band event/performance dates on your calendar, especially:

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Instrument Fitting Night Wednesday, August 25<sup>th</sup> 5:30 – 8:30PM**

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Start Up Clinic: Monday, September 13, 2021 2:20 – 5:30PM**

**Fill out and return the following forms:**

**Forms should be completed & submitted no later than Friday, August 20, 2021**

- Student Information Sheet / Acknowledgement Form\*\* - PROGRAM INFORMATION tab
- Band Operations Fee: Band Uniform (Shirts) / Method Book / Binder System / Start Up Clinic / Instructors / more...  
\*\*\$100 - Credit Card payments can be made online. (No cash or checks) See payment links posted on the AMMS Band website (ammsband.org) – BAND ONLINE PAYMENTS tab

**Supplies needed for class: These are needed daily starting Monday, August 16<sup>th</sup>**

- Black 1” 3-ring binder (Included in Operations Fee)
- Sheet protectors (20-25) (3 included in Operations Fee)
- Set of Dividers (Included in Operations Fee)
- Notebook paper
- Pencils
- Box of Kleenex
- Agenda
- iPad – charged

\*Band instrument and additional instrument specific supplies will be purchased/rented AFTER instrument fittings.

- Items for Donation:**
- \$\$\$\$\$
  - Bag of balloons (standard size only)
  - Hand sanitizer w/ aloe
  - Extra boxes of Kleenex tissues
  - Band-aids
  - Ping pong balls
  - Puppy Pads



*Wendy Wilson*  
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**Autrey Mill Middle School**

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