



CALLING ALL MUSICIANS!



This is an exciting time for all 6th graders! At Staley Middle School there are many opportunities to get involved... and every elective choice is great! Your student has had 5 great years in elementary music. We hope your family will decide to continue this tradition and consider signing your young musician up for band! This is just a very brief introduction to our award-winning program. For more information, including an entire page dedicated to your student, please check out our website at www.staleyband.org.

There are MANY benefits to being in band. Just a few of the positive things to consider are;

- ♪ Research has shown that music and band can help students have higher test scores.
- ♪ Band gives your student the chance to have a class with current friends (and new friends!)
- ♪ Band students will have an opportunity to meet their classmates before school even starts!
- ♪ Band is a vital part of the school. We play at pep-rallies, football games, concerts, and many other places!
- ♪ Band is the largest elective at Staley! We average almost 40-45% of the total 6th grade!
- ♪ Band is one of the few electives where students get to travel! In sixth grade we take two trips (both reward trips!). Our seventh and eighth grade students travel even more with our top band averaging two chances to travel almost EVERY MONTH!

In the next few months you may find yourself with a lot of questions or concerns about middle school. Below are some of the most commonly asked questions regarding band.

♪ *Do I need to know music or how to play an instrument to be in band?*

NO!!! You do not need to have had any musical experience or be a part of a special elementary program. We will teach your student from the ground up and have them performing in no time!

♪ *How much does it cost?*

Instrument rentals range from \$15-55 a month. There are also many school owned instruments that average even less than \$15 a month! Bottom line- cost should not worry you. We have scholarships, a work program, and special deals for any student. If your student wants to sign up for band we will make it happen!

♪ *Can I be in band and Athletics, Cheer, Art, Drama, Etc*

YES!!! You can be in band and numerous other school activities!!! 6th graders only get one elective choice and many options are not available until 7th grade. We are proud to say that EVERY group on campus has a band student in it! Besides having leadership positions in STUCO, NJHS, and other clubs, we also have about 65% of our 7th and 8th grade in athletics (football, basketball, volleyball, track, soccer, etc)! You can do it all in middle school!

♪ *What do I do if I want to sign up?*

If you would like to join band, we will first need to “interview” you on an instrument. We try to put everyone on their first choice but many times it is easier to try something else. Be on the look out for more information from the band department and be sure to mark band as your **FIRST CHOICE** when you get your schedule card for sixth grade.

♪ Be sure to check out the website for more information or feel free to contact a band director (contact info on the backside)

MORE INFO ON THE BACK PAGE!

Contact Information

Feel free to contact a band director at anytime. Email is the preferred method of communication as our conference times vary. Be sure to check our website for current information as well as an overview of the program.

~www.staleyband.org~

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Mr. Shaun Gray
Assistant Director of Bands
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Staley Middle School
www.friscoisd.org/staley
469.633.4500
(Mrs. Morales 6th grade counselor)

Available instruments

Beginning Band consists of 11 instrument choices. For what we look for when we screen and other information please check out our website. Students will be screened on any instrument they are interested in to make sure it is a good choice for them. Please see the steps below for a general outline and screening information.

Woodwind Family-Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet, Saxophone
Brass Family- Trumpet, Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba
Percussion- Class consists of both drums *and* mallet instruments

Steps to signing up for band

Below are some steps and the time line to getting your student in band. This is just a basic outline and more information will be coming home in the coming months.

1) **NOW- Discuss it with your family.**

This is an important choice and students with strong parental support usually have greater success. If you have a family member that was in band you know what a commitment it is. If your student is the first band member we look forward to introducing your family to instrumental music!

2) **JANUARY 29, Come to the Screening.**

To be in band we need to try out all the instruments. This helps us determine what works best for your student. Students have a blast as they can try ALL the choices or just their top few.

Screenings are done individually and ALL students are encouraged to come to the Staley Middle School Band Hall on the 29th to be screened. Even if you are not sure about band, this is a great opportunity to come and try the instruments out and ask questions! (another date will be assigned if needed)

3) **Mid-Feb. Get the gear**

You will need to get certain supplies and an instrument! We will have a music company on site for our screenings. We would recommend that you 'reserve' an instrument now to make sure it is ready to go at the start of school.

4) **Mid to Late Feb, Put Band #1 on your schedule**

As you fill out your student's schedule, please note that the only way to guarantee that your student will be in band is to put it **FIRST** on the schedule card. Note- you can put band #1 even if your student has not been screened. We can screen at anytime, not just on our assigned screening date.

5) **End of Summer. Summer Band Camp**

This is a fun time to introduce our classes and get a head start on the year. This optional event is a blast and we hope all future band students can attend.