



“Learn to be a Musician!”

The Frisco Independent School District would like to invite your child to take part in the Band Program at Fowler Middle School. The Fowler Band is one of the most award-winning middle school bands in the history of Frisco ISD winning both state and national recognition. Last summer 40 Fowler Band members performed in New York’s famous Carnegie Hall! This past fall the Fowler MS Jazz Band was named the Texas State Champion and will perform at the 2018 Texas Music Educator Association Convention, the only middle school jazz band in Texas invited to perform. Finally, two years ago our Fowler MS Percussion Ensemble was declared NATIONAL CHAMPIONS and was the only middle school in America who was invited to perform at the Percussive Arts Society International Conference (PASIC).

- Currently 390 of the students at Fowler are in the Band, including 80% of the school’s Gifted & Talented students.
- This year almost HALF of the entire 6th grade at Fowler is in the band, it is very popular!

Fine Arts education is not only a creative activity; it is an artistic experience for the child. Benefits of being in band include: responsibility, hard work, dedication, teamwork, confidence, and pride. Band students consistently have SAT scores 200 points higher than the state and national average. A recent study showed that 80% of all physicians in America played a musical instrument!

Musical instruction is provided free from F.I.S.D., but every child will need to have a musical instrument with which to study. We recommend that parents **do not** buy an instrument, but rent an instrument the first year until they are confident that the student will be committed to learning that instrument. The school provides rental of the more expensive instruments on a very limited basis (tubas, euphoniums, French horns, oboes, & bassoons), but playing one of these instruments is based on suitability, not financial need.

Many parents sometime confuse the Band with Orchestra, but they are not the same, they are two separate organizations. The Band is the wind instruments and percussion -- flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, euphonium (baritone), tuba, and percussion (drums). The orchestra is the string orchestra (violin, viola cello, bass). There is another teacher for orchestra and it is not the same program as band. The band plays ALL varieties of music from Mozart, jazz, pop, symphonic, and orchestral music. You cannot be in both band and strings in 6th grade.

Considering the time it takes to develop good musicians, a majority of students in America traditionally begin band in the 6th grade. **Parents will be contacted in the next week to discuss their child trying out an instrument.** There is NO OBLIGATION to be in band if you attend this instrument screening meeting! Even if you are not sure about band yet, it would be an amazing experience to at least get to try all the instruments! Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

We invite you to ask your friends and neighbors about the band program at Fowler MS, we have a stellar reputation!

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