



Fowler Middle School Falcon Band

“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 the most award-winning middle school band in the history of Frisco ISD winning both state and national recognition. Almost HALF of the students at Fowler MS are in the band including 80% of the school's Gifted & Talent Program is in our band.

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 much higher SAT scores than the state and national average. A recent study showed that 80% of all physicians in America have played a musical instrument!

For your information, athletics and cheerleading are NOT offered in the sixth grade; however, BAND is offered starting in 6th grade. When the students reach 7th grade they can take both athletics AND band.

Band does not conflict with other middle school activities such as athletics or cheerleading.

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. At a reputable music store, beginning band instruments may be **rented** at a **low monthly cost** where all the rent applies to the purchase; however, you are not obligated to purchase the instrument! Again, we prefer you only rent an instrument the first year. The school provides rental of the more expensive instruments on a very limited basis (tubas, baritones, 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.

Considering the time it takes to develop good musicians, a majority of students in America traditionally begin band in the 6th grade. Because of the incredible growth in Frisco ISD we can only accept 150 -160 of the 400 sixth grade students in the Fowler MS Beginning Band. If your child wishes to take band in 6th grade, he/she must choose "**Beginning Band**" as their FIRST CHOICE for their elective when you enroll in middle school for the fall and attend an instrument selection meeting in February.

Students & parents will be contacted this month to discuss trying out an instrument.

There is NO OBLIGATION to be in band if you attend this meeting! Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions. We invite you to ask your friends and neighbors about the band at Fowler MS! We are sure that your child will have a positive and rewarding band experience!

David Dunham, Jenny Denis, & Donald Bruce
Band Directors, Fowler Middle School
(469) 633-5070 www.fowlerband.com