



469-633-5070

3801 McDermott Rd. Plano, TX. 75025

www.fowlerband.com

Dear Falcon Band students & parents,

Greetings from the Falcon Band!! We hope you are having a great summer and we are excited to be starting another year of the Fowler Band. Mrs. Denis, Mr. Hedrick and I are SO EXCITED about this coming year!!

All information about the band can be found on our website www.fowlerband.com

We communicate with parents exclusively through our website and through mass emails.

We try to only send the emails out a few times per month, but you will find that they are much more frequent at the beginning and end of the school year. Our database is NOT connected to Frisco ISD or Fowler MS, any changes to your email or if you want us to send to additional emails, you will need to email Mr. Dunham to be added/changed (DunhamD@friscoisd.org). **It is essential that you be sure that we have your correct email address(s).**

I am ALWAYS glad to promptly answer your email questions concerning anything not clear on the website or in emails; however, I DO ask you to please consult both previous emails and the band website before contacting me.

Fowler Band members performed in New York City

The Fowler Band had 36 students perform in New York last month at the world renowned Carnegie Hall! The event was in conjunction with the Honors Performance Series - National Middle School Honor Band. The national band was made up of 105 students who auditioned from 38 US states, Canada, China, Korea, and Guam! Of the 105 students in the nation selected to perform, ONE SCHOOL made up practically 1/3 of this band- Fowler MS! The students were there for 4 days practicing and touring the city and attended a Broadway show. Congrats to these amazing Fowler musicians!

This year's 7th and 8th graders will have a chance to make an audition recording in November for a chance to be in this band and go to New York and perform in Carnegie Hall next summer! More information will be provided after school starts.



NEW BAND STAFF MEMBER: Our director of 7th & 8th grade percussion Mr. Eliot Johnson has left Fowler to be a traveling professional musician. This fall he will be a drum set player on a Cruise line sailing all over the world and making music. We are excited to announce the addition of our new Director of 7th & 8th Grade Percussion Director **Ms. Valerie Wharton**



Born and raised in Chicago, Ms. Wharton moved to Fort Worth when she began her studies in music education at Texas Christian University. As a performer, Ms. Wharton has played in several high-profile situations at both the national and international level, including a showcase concert at PASIC, tours with the Crossmen and the Santa Clara Vanguard, a winter drumline season with Vigilantes Indoor Percussion, and a concert with the International Festival of Winds and Percussion at the Sydney Opera House. At TCU, she performed in the award-winning percussion ensemble, wind band, symphony orchestra, steel band, and marching band. She currently enjoys playing gigs in the DFW metroplex in addition to teaching.

As an educator, Ms. Wharton has taught many groups in DFW, including Plano West, Heritage, Wakeland, Richland, Keller, North Mesquite, Berkner, Southwest, Brazoswood, Eaton, Poteet, Creekview, Saginaw, University of Texas at Arlington, and Vigilantes Indoor Percussion.!

All band students should be ACTIVELY practicing their instruments NOW!

Where most of the experienced players likely have been practicing regularly, some of you might need to get your instruments out and blow the cobwebs and dust out of them! We will have a CHAIR TEST shortly after the beginning of school, which will decide seating/parts/solos for the fall concert...So get practicing! You should be practicing long tones, lip slurs, and scales. If you play a school owned instrument, you should have already come by the Fowler Band Hall to pick one up, if you have not please come by between 9am and 4pm on a Wednesday to pick it up.

REQUIRED SUMMER BAND (THREE DAYS)

The following Summer Band dates were sent to you 11 months ago on the last year's band color calendar:

MONDAY, August 6th **TUESDAY, August 7th** **AND THURSDAY, August 9th**

5:00pm-8:00pm

5:00pm-8:00pm

5:00pm-8:00pm (and Band Party until 11:20pm)

Summer Band is **REQUIRED** for **ALL** 7th and 8th graders who are in Symphonic Band, Honor Band, & Concert Band. **If you are in-town, you MUST come!** This is where we will read through the music planned for this year, get our "chops" back in shape, and you will be given other music and materials. We also have fun! If you are going to be out-of-town on a family vacation, please email Mr. Dunham **BEFORE** summer band to let us know that you will be out-of-town. If transportation is a problem, please arrange carpooling now. **You need to be here for summer band!!**

BAND PARTY!!!

After our rehearsal that Thursday (Aug 9th) we are planning to take buses to PINSTACK in Plano for an awesome BAND PARTY! 6205 Dallas Parkway, Plano TX. 75024

The party will be from 8:30pm to 11:00pm **and we will return to Fowler by bus by 11:20pm.**

We will be providing buses both TO and FROM the party, but parents are welcome to pick-up their child early from the event, just be sure to come before 10:45pm to get them and check out with a chaperone. If you come to pick-up your child after 10:45pm the student will have to ride the bus back to Fowler. **Remember: For student safety on any bus trip we have this year parents should NEVER park in the bus loading/unloading lane.**

For those students who are **not** going to attend the party, your parents can pick you up at the band hall Thursday after rehearsal at 8:00pm. **If going to the party, we ask that each student bring a total of \$20.00 on the first day of summer band to cover the party's cost, please do not combine this payment with the band fee payment. Or you can go to the band website and pay online (preferred).**

\$20 PRICE INCLUDES:

- Bus transportation to and from Pinstack
- All-U-Can-Eat Pizza, Mozzarella Sticks, and Fountain drinks
- Unlimited Rides including: Bowling, Laser Tag, Bumper Cars, Giant Foosball, Laser Maze, Rock Climbing Wall, Ropes
- Unlimited Video Games (excludes redemption ticket and prize games)

Again, the party is optional, summer band is not optional.



Fowler Percussion students in all three bands will have a **required percussion camp** on

Thursday, August 2nd (9am-3pm) AND **Friday, August 3rd** (9am-3pm). LUNCH PROVIDED!

The rehearsals are IN ADDITION to the regular Aug 6th, 7th & 9th Full Summer Band.

Both days of the Percussion camp are going to be **AT LEBANON TRAIL HIGH SCHOOL** 5151 Ohio Dr., Frisco, TX 75035 (not at Fowler MS). Please arrange carpooling if transportation is a problem as buses are not provided.

This percussion camp is where you will be assigned the Marching Percussion Instruments for the Fall, learn warm-ups, cadences, pep band music, and start work on a drum feature for Pep-Rally's, Concerts, etc. If you do not attend this clinic you will NOT be placed on a marching percussion instrument. These two days are NOT optional. We want our drum line to be amazing again this year!!

AUGUST PEP RALLY PERFORMANCE AT FLIGHT CAMP!

All 7th & 8th Grade Band Members will be performing at the 6th Grade FALCON FLIGHT CAMP

Monday, August 13th from 8:20am-9:40am in the Fowler Gym.

Attire: Band T-Shirt and shorts.

This will give the incoming 6th graders and Fowler faculty a chance to hear our mighty band!

We expect everyone to come to this unless you are out-of-town or have a pre-planned activity. If you have a conflict with attending this short performance and can't come, please email me with your name and flight camp in the subject. No need to email me if you can come, we will assume that you will be there unless you email me otherwise.

PRIVATE LESSONS:

Private Lessons are **critical** for the success of the band! The opportunity to study privately with a professional musician is one of the most important factors to your individual successes as well as that of the band. Of the members who make the Texas All-State Band, roughly 97% take private lessons! Lessons will be at Fowler Middle School before, during, and after school. They will be 30 mins. per week at a cost of \$18-\$20 per lesson. Symphonic Band members are required to take private lessons, if you are in Honor Band or Concert Band this fall and want to improve and possibly make a higher band in the spring, please talk to your parents about private lessons!!!!!! There will be continuous evaluation for every band member for band placement for the spring semester. In some cases, changes in fall band placement MAY be made for the fall DURING summer band based on the progress you have made over the summer (or in some cases, lack of progress). Get practicing!!! PRIVATE LESSONS ARE VITALLY IMPORTANT!!!!

SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS

Those people playing school owned instruments such as oboe, bassoon, tenor sax, bari sax, bass clarinet, French horn, euphonium, and tuba then you know that there is a maintenance fee of **\$100 PER YEAR** (or \$50 per semester) for using school owned instruments which is due the first week of school. This fee is for routine chemical cleaning and adjustment the summer following use. **This instrument fee must be paid ONLINE at MyPaymentsPlus (The same place where you set up and pay for your child's school lunches).** **This will NOT be set up until a week or so before school starts.** **We CANNOT accept personal checks for this fee.** This \$100 is a SEPARATE Fee charged by the school district, please do not confuse this with the Yearly Band Fees. **YOU CANNOT PAY THIS FEE THROUGH THE BAND ONLINE SYSTEM, IT HAS TO GO THROUGH MYPAYMENTSPLUS ONLY**

We would PREFER that you pay all \$100 for the school year by September 1st if you can.

THIS IS A GREAT TIME FOR STEP-UP INSTRUMENTS!!

A beginning instrument (non step-up) is for the first 1-2 years of playing. A Step-up instrument should last a student through their high school, college & beyond. It is better quality and more expensive, but retains much of its value over time! These horns have significantly less repair costs due to their quality.

Flute (open hole!) Sonare 6000, Lyric II, Emerson Model 8, Jupiter 911 "DiMedici", or Miyazawa

Clarinet (wood!) Buffet R13

Alto Saxophone Selmer S80 Series II or Series III

Trumpet Bach S180-37 "Stradivarius"

Trombone Bach Stradivarius 42BO or Eastman ETB634

In most cases would recommend NOT buying these instruments NEW, but let us help you find a good USED step up instrument. Contact a band director about finding the best deal for you on a used instrument! If your family would have to make a choice between getting a new instrument OR taking lessons, choose private lessons!

Note for clarinet players: Duo Music in Frisco rent-to-owns used Buffett R-13 professional clarinets (they are the only company in North Texas that does a rent-to-own program for the R-13). Payments would likely be a little more than as you are paying for your E-11, but the R-13 is the BEST clarinet in the world. Please contact Duo Music about an R-13 (Mia Song 214-436-7459), especially if you are in Symphonic Band. You will be amazed at how you sound on this professional instrument!

UNIFORMS

All 7th graders will be purchasing the Black embroidered Band Polo from the band for \$15.00. Any 8th grader who has grown out of their Polo shirt will need to purchase a new one for \$15.00

You are responsible for acquiring on your own:

- BLACK SLACKS - Polyester or wool. No Capri pants, No Black Jeans, No Black "Dockers" or skirts allowed for indoor attire!); Pants must have belt loops. Don't purchase pants with waistbands that are too tight. There must be enough room to tuck in your shirt. Allow for growing throughout the school year. You can find these items at Kohls, Walmart or Target.
- BLACK Dress Belt - All Black, leather or similar (not canvasz). Belt buckle should be plain and simple, not ornate
- BLACK Socks - Calf length (NO Ankle Socks, No Navy Socks). Be sure that they are BLACK, not Navy Blue.
- BLACK Dress Shoes - Shoes must be ALL BLACK, DRESS SHOES (No tennis shoes, no open toed sandals). Ladies may wear flats or opened toed very low heel or no heel (suggest rubber heel) with open toe; HOWEVER, you must wear black hose or socks to cover your exposed toes or tops of feet. Get shoes larger than needed to all for growth.

We will wear the Black Band T-Shirt for outdoor performances, pep rallies, and trips.

Please take care of these uniform items by Oct. 1st at the latest.

We also encourage you to wear your Falcon Band T-shirt to school to show spirit and pride in your band! **Remember, over 40% of the entire school will be in the Fowler Band! Band is Cool!!**

RECORDINGS FROM LAST YEAR'S CONCERTS

For our incoming 8th graders, here is the website you can go to for recordings of ALL our concerts from last year.

www.terrypse.com. Then click on "Clients" then "Middle Schools", then "Fowler MS" from the menu. You can download them, or send the link to family out of town! There were no recordings of 6th grade concerts.

BAND ORIENTATION NIGHT FOR PARENTS

The ONLY formal Parent Meeting of the school year on **Tuesday, August 21st** from 6:00pm-7:00pm in the Fowler MS Cafeteria. We will discuss the school year, band policies and procedures, go over the band calendar for the year, and discuss any trips we will take. **We need at least ONE PARENT from each family to attend, especially if you have a child going into 7th grade band.** Students do not have to attend but are welcome to do so.

Falcon Band Fees 2018-2019

We try to estimate EVERY cost associated with band this year so as not to "surprise" you by asking for money throughout the year. However, the listed amounts DO NOT INCLUDE the cost of the OPTIONAL Spring Trip to Hurricane Harbor, or the OPTIONAL trip to Medieval Times.

IT IS PREFERRED THAT YOU USE THE ONLINE PAYMENT SYSTEM FROM THE BAND WEBSITE FOR ALL

PAYMENTS THIS YEAR. (It is easier to track and provides as you with a receipt, but there is a small transaction charge)

If using check or a money order, make payable to "**Fowler Band**" (No Cash accepted) - Due the first day of school

Whenever you turn in a check or money order to us, please be sure to put your child's name at the bottom "Memo"

section of the check. **Never send in a payment without your child's first and last name on it.**

We would appreciate these fees being paid the FIRST NIGHT OF SUMMER BAND on August 6th

If using a school owned instrument, your \$100 **per year** fee (or \$50 a semester). This fee required by the school district is only for instruments owned by the school district for their use: oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, tenor sax, bari sax, French horn, bass trombone, euphonium, and tuba. As stated before, you will pay the instrument fee using MyPaymentsPlus. Regular Band Fees listed below CANNOT be paid though MyPaymentsPlus because these go into a different account.

7th Graders

\$ 15.00 - BLACK Embroidered Polo SHIRT (For all performances, contests, & concerts). Purchased from the Band

\$ 8.00 - Recording Fee (for professional recording of all our band performances)

\$ 60.00 - Contest/Competition Fee (Meyerson Performing Arts Center, Solo Contest including pianist, etc.).

\$ 28.00 - Social Fee for parties, sodas, pizza after clinics, special "treats" etc.

\$ 4.00 - Supplies Fee (matching binders, labels, dividers, etc.) Must be purchased from the Band

TOTAL- \$ 115.00

In addition to the above, **Uniform Attire** needs to be purchased by October 1st:

BLACK Slacks (no capris, no black jeans) BLACK dress belt, BLACK dress socks, & BLACK dress shoes.

If your Black Band T-shirt is lost or no longer fits, then you will need to purchase a new one for \$13.00

8th Graders

\$ 8.00 - Recording Fee (for professional recording of all our band performances)

\$ 60.00 - Contest/Competition Fee (Myerson Performing Arts Center, Solo Contest including pianist, etc.).

\$ 28.00 - Social Fee for parties, sodas, pizza after clinics, special "treats" etc.

\$ 4.00 - Supplies Fee (matching binders, labels, dividers, etc.) Must be purchased from the Band

TOTAL- \$ 100.00

If you do not have a tuner, or if your Band T-Shirt/Band Polo is lost or Black Dress Pants no longer fits, you need to purchase new ones.

New students who are moving to Fowler MS from another school or are 6th grader playing in the 7th & 8th grade band, you will need to pay the 7th grade fee, get uniform parts, and also get a Fowler Band T-Shirt since they did not get in 6th grade (for a total fee of \$128)

SPRING TRIP 2019 (OPTIONAL)

Hurricane Harbor (Arlington)

Friday, May 31st (The day after school is out)

Admission Ticket + All-You-Can-Eat Lunch Buffet + Bus Transportation = \$38.00

We will NOT ACCEPT PAYMENTS for the Hurricane Harbor Trip UNTIL February 2019