



# Ashworth Middle School Band

Laramie Rodriguez, Director

Scott McClanahan, Principal

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Date: 8-1-19

Dear Band Parents and Students,

Welcome back to another great school year at Ashworth Middle School! I hope you and your children had a great summer. I'm looking forward to many great things from the Ashworth Band this year. Here are some upcoming events you need to be aware of.

### **Band Parent Meeting (for all band parents and students)**

On Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00pm in the Ashworth gym, we will have our annual band parent meeting to discuss plans for the year. The meeting will last until 6:30pm. The 6<sup>th</sup> graders and parents will head to the cafeteria for the next section, explained below.

### **Instrument Sales Night (for 6<sup>th</sup> grade band parents and students)**

Folks from Ken Stanton Music will be with us following the parent meeting with instruments available for rental. They will explain how everything works with their rental program that evening. In a nutshell: it is a rent-to-own program. There is an introductory rate for the first two months, after which it will increase to the regular price. After paying for the number of months specified on the contract, the instrument becomes yours. They'll be able to explain it and answer questions far better than me, so please do not miss this. The reason we plan this event is to make things convenient for you by bringing the music company to you. However, if you wish to buy from Pete's Music City here in town, by all means, please do. My friends there are fantastic and they'll be happy to help you. If you wish to rent/purchase the instrument elsewhere, please keep me in the loop. There are many, many poor-quality brands and instruments out there, and I would hate it for your student if they're unsuccessful in band because they're playing on an instrument on which they never had any hope to play well with. I'm here to help.

We will discuss this in the meeting, but every 6<sup>th</sup>-grade student needs to have his/her instrument by Monday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, at the latest so that s/he doesn't fall behind the rest of the group. If there are financial circumstances that make it difficult to rent an instrument, please do not be discouraged. Talk to me and we'll figure something out.

### **Communication**

One thing I'm big on is communication. My contact info is on this letter. Letters go home frequently. We have a terrific website with tons of information for you: [www.ashworthband.com](http://www.ashworthband.com). We also have a Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/ashworthband](https://www.facebook.com/ashworthband). We're on Instagram @ashworthband. I also send Remind messages. To sign up, text @amsband6 (6<sup>th</sup> grade), or @amsband7 (7<sup>th</sup> grade), or @amsband8 (8<sup>th</sup> grade) to 81010 and follow the prompts. Please take advantage of these many channels of communication to make sure you stay informed. We stay pretty busy all year, and I want to make sure you know what's going on.

### **Band Boosters**

We need your help! Parent support is a crucial part of making our band successful. That help is primarily manifested in making sure your child is practicing his/her instrument and encouraging them to give nothing but their best not only in band, but in their other classes as well. However, because of the



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number of activities that the band takes part in, we really need help from the band parents. The best way to get involved is through our Band Boosters organization. The Band Boosters is an incorporated 501(c)(3) organization that serves to help raise money for the band and to help get parents involved as volunteers. There are many ways you can get involved. If you want to help, please be in touch with me.

## Disney

We will be going to Disney over Spring Break this year. This will be open primarily to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. However, if we don't have enough students sign up, it will be opened up to 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Much of the information can be found on the band website under the Disney 2020 page. A letter with more information will go home soon.

## Important Due Dates

Please be sure to read through the syllabus. Your child needs to read it, too. Return the "Information and Agreement Form" to me by Friday, August 9th. It lets me know you know what is expected of your child. This will count as a participation grade. An electronic version of this form is available online on our website in the "Handbook & Syllabus" page. If you have the capability, please fill it out electronically. If not please have your child let me know and I'll be happy to print him/her a copy.

The band fee (\$50) is also due by Friday, August 9th. For students marching with the Blue Wave Band, who have additional band fees, the fee is \$30. If you have trouble paying the band fee, please contact me. We don't want to exclude anyone! We can break it down into payments if it's necessary. We'll be happy to deal with that on a case-by-case basis. As I stated in the syllabus, most of the band fee goes directly back to your child. The rest is used to benefit the band as a whole.

## Final Thoughts

Please take a minute and sign up for Remind and visit our website frequently. We have big plans for this year, but we won't get things done without parental support. We really need everyone in the band – parents and students – involved to make this year one of the best! Please email or call with questions. I look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, August 6th!

Best,

Mr. Rodriguez