

## Welcome to the Fowler Middle School 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band!

Dear Parents,

Recently, your child's school was visited by the Fowler Middle School Advanced Band, where students were treated to a preview of their choices for music electives in 6<sup>th</sup> grade! All of Fowler's music ensembles are taught as an elective class during the school day, which makes this an opportunity that you cannot pass up to enrich your child's life and education with the gift of music.

Hopefully, you received an informational letter about band at Fowler, but if not, you can get a copy of it by going to the website below and clicking the link on the page that reads "Beginning Band Information":

<http://fowler.ttsdschools.org/pages/FowlerMS/Academics/Band>

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Beginning Band is only offered in 6<sup>th</sup> Grade! If your student chooses to sign up for an elective other than band, they will lose their only opportunity to take part in band class with all of their friends at school! *Don't miss out!!* Once your child is in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, they WILL have an additional elective period, which will allow them to take music along with other electives like art, drama, or a foreign language.

The four instruments that are taught in 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band are the **flute, clarinet, trumpet, and trombone**. Your child got to play at least two of these today, and worked with the band director and current band students to determine which is the best instrument for him or her to play. Three main things go into making this decision:

1. What sound does your child like best?
2. What instrument fits him/her best physically?
3. What overall instrumentation will enable the band to create its best sound?

At the bottom of this letter, you will see that an instrument has been circled. Your student was able to produce sound on this instrument and has our recommendation to play this instrument in band next year!

After deciding what your student will play, you will need to get an instrument. The Information Letter available on the band website has a lot of information about this, or you may call or e-mail with any additional questions. Let me assure you, however, that there are several music stores nearby, and each offers affordable and flexible rental plans. You will not have to break the bank to allow your child to participate in music.

If you have any questions about band, please contact Mr. VanDyke by phone at 503-431-5074 or via e-mail at [bvandyke@ttsd.k12.or.us](mailto:bvandyke@ttsd.k12.or.us)

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(To help us prepare, please return this portion to your student's 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. Thank you!)

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I would like to have my child participate in 6<sup>th</sup> grade band! Instrument preference circled below:

Flute

Clarinet

Trumpet

Trombone

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_