

# Welcome to the Cougar Band!

The new school year is fast approaching!! Thank you in advance for your support, and particularly for encouraging your child to study music. This investment of time, effort, and energy will produce lifelong dividends! **Have no fear!!!!** We are here to help your student make a smooth and easy transition from 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade!! Your child is going to be able to make lots of friends instantly! We are thrilled to have the opportunity to work with your child every day!! As teachers we bring enthusiasm, excitement, and laughter to the classroom on a daily basis!! Our goal is to have our students “running” to our class... We want band to be an exciting part of their school day!!! We have 135 6th graders enrolled in beginning band for the fall, which is over half the 6<sup>th</sup> grade class. This makes the Band the largest and most popular activity at Clark! Counting the older students we will have a total of 370 in the Cougar Band! Our official web site for all Cougar Band news and information is:

**[www.clarkband.org](http://www.clarkband.org)**

Please make it a point to check this website often for questions about anything to do with the band program. It is updated several times per week. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at [KatzB@friscoisd.org](mailto:KatzB@friscoisd.org).

**This letter is a reminder that your student will need to have an instrument, accessories, supplies, and books by the FIRST DAY of class, Monday August 24th.** Please do not worry about finances. We can help! Please contact us if you have any concerns.

If you have already rented/purchased an instrument from a music store, they will deliver it to the school prior to the first day. If you have not secured the above instrument and materials, **please do so as soon as possible!** Music companies tend to run out of instruments and materials this time of year, and reordering could take several weeks!! If you have trouble finding good deals on instruments, please contact us and let us see if we can help. If there is a financial hardship in getting an instrument, let us know!! Maybe we can help!! Please go to [Clarkband.org](http://Clarkband.org) and/or click on [5<sup>th</sup> grade parents](#) for the [supply list](#) and the suggested [places to rent an instrument](#). Music & Arts, Music1st and Duo Music(clarinets only) are fantastic dealers and who we highly recommend. They already have our supply lists, brand of instruments and know what to provide you.

**Note:** Finally, unless you have had private lessons this summer, **please do not try to play on your instrument.** Wait until we all play together this fall so you won't develop bad habits or damage your instrument during assembly.

**THE CLARK MIDDLE SCHOOL BEGINNING BAND PROGRAM OVERVIEW:**

1. Each beginning band class meets for 46 minutes **EVERY DAY** and is set up in "like-instrument" classes.
2. Once a student is in the 7th and 8th grade, they may participate in band and athletics.

We ensure that there are no conflicts with athletics at Clark!!

3. There will be only THREE public performances this first year. We also have two afterschool practices in the spring. Other than the following events there will be **no** after school obligations this school year as far as the beginning band is concerned!

(1) The first concert is an informal playing demonstration on **November 19th** at 6:00pm at Clark.

(2) Our Spring concert is Thursday, **May 12th** at 6:00pm at Clark.

(3) Sandy Lake Music Festival (Carrollton) **May 13th**. In preparation for this contest we will have two after-school rehearsals on May 3rd & 5th from 3:40 - 5:00 p.m. These rehearsals are some of the few times during the year that all of the beginning classes are combined into a fully instrumented band to prepare for the contest and our final concert.

4. The following items are Band Fees in addition to instrument and musical supplies. We do not want to "surprise you" with cost throughout the year so we are disclosing the "fine print" of band participation.

The first week of school: Please send a CHECK (no cash) made out to "Clark Band" for a total of \$30.00. **You may also pay online at [clarkband.org](http://clarkband.org).** There is a small service charge for paying on-line.

\$15.00 - Band T-Shirt (For performances & field trips)

\$15.00 - Social Fee for parties, sodas, awards, special "treats" etc.

5. Some of the very large and very expensive instruments are owned by the school and may be issued to students selected by the director for that instrument (i.e. oboe, bassoon, French horn, euphonium/baritone, and tuba). There is a usage fee for school owned instruments of \$100 per year. This fee is for routine chemical cleaning and adjustment the summer following use. Remember, this is **ONLY** for school owned instruments: oboes, bassoons, French horns, Euphoniums & tubas.

6. **Private lessons are a VITAL ELEMENT in a student's musical life.** The opportunity to study privately with a professional musician is one of the most important factors to individual success. These professionals provide detailed, specific, one-on-one instruction tailored for your child. Of the students who make the Texas All-State Band, roughly 97% take private lessons! Lessons are taught at Clark Middle School before, during, or after school depending on the teacher's schedule. They will be 30 minutes per week at a cost of \$18 per lesson. **Though optional, it is strongly recommended that you consider private lessons as a part of your musical education.**

8. **COUGAR BAND SPIRIT ITEMS!!**–Car decals, yard signs, etc. Go to Clarkband.org for details!!

**FINALLY:** It is a privilege to have your child as a new musician at Clark Middle School!! Thank you for your support of music education! As parents, you play an important role in everything we do. We will have our only meeting of the year on Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm in the cafeteria at Clark Middle School. If there are ANY questions or concerns, please contact us! You can call us or e-mail us directly from our web page!

Clark MS Band Staff: Mr. Katz, Director of Bands (Beginning Clarinet, Flute, and Saxophone)  
Mr. Kennedy (Beginning Euphonium, Trombone, and Tuba)  
Mr. Timpani (Beginning Bassoon, French Horn, Oboe, and Trumpet)  
Mr. Wallace (Beginning Percussion)