

Dear Parents,

Camp begins on Monday, August 10th at 5:30pm. Attendance for all rising 7th and 8th graders who have been in band for at least one year, is mandatory. Please contact us if you have a conflict or concern at KatzB@friscoisd.org as soon as possible, so that we can arrange a time to meet prior to the event.

During the summer camp for all rising 7th and 8th graders, we will be rehearsing all of our new stands music for the football games, pep-rallies, and our elementary tour. If you are unable to attend, please e-mail us, at KatzB@friscoisd.org as soon as possible, so that we can arrange a time to meet prior to the event

See below for details.

Clark Band Summer Camp -- for all returning 7th and 8th graders:

Monday, August 10th 5:30pm - 8:30pm

Tuesday, August 11th 5:30pm - 8:30pm

Thursday, August 13th 5:30pm - 7:00pm

Volunteer background checks must be renewed beginning on **August 1st**. Please click [here for the FISD volunteer/background check form](#). It takes 3-5 business days for the background to be completed.

We hope that you are enjoying your summer. Our team has been working diligently preparing for the start of school. All of us are very excited about the opportunity to continue the great traditions established here at Clark Middle School. We are expected to be over 360 members in the program! **We continue to be largest band in the history of Frisco!** The following information is for all parents and students involved with the Clark Band program next year. Please read carefully, as some of this pertains to everyone, and some only to a few. We understand that many of us are struggling financially; we can help! Please, do not allow money to be the reason that your family chooses not to play with us. We can work together so that your child can participate in band and have a wonderful experience.

All returning 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 dust off of them! We will have new chair tests shortly after the beginning of school, so make sure you practice! You should be practicing long tones, lip slurs, scales, and the music that you received at the end of school.

Summer lessons will continue through Tuesday, August 18th. Please continue to allow your child to take lessons when school starts, as they are essential to their musical development. Over 95% of All-State Band students take private lessons. If you were unable to sign your child up for summer lessons, and you would like for your child to join our lessons program, please go to Clarkband.org and click on the private lessons teachers list to contact a teacher and set-up a time.

Jazz Band Only:

Wednesday, August 12th 1:30pm to 2:30pm Band Hall

Thursday, August 13th 1:30pm to 2:30pm Band Hall

Friday, August 14th 8:15am to 10:15am Band Hall

We perform at **8:45am** in the gym. Wear your Band T-shirt and jeans or shorts.

Amazing Jakes:

When camp concludes on Thursday, August 13th at **7:00pm**, we will travel, by bus, to Amazing Jakes. This **optional event** is a reward for their hard work during the week. Amazing Jakes is located at 831 North Central Expressway, Plano, TX 75075-8809. Tickets are **\$17 per person**. This pays for transportation, dinner, drinks and most events at Amazing Jakes. Amazing Jakes features Mini-golf, Laser Tag, Go Karts and Arcade Games. Please make your checks payable to the "Clark Band." We will return to Clark Middle School by **10:45PM**. Please make arrangements to pick-up your child, with their instrument, from Clark Middle School.

Band Fees:

Returning student's fees are due at the beginning of Summer Camp. Please have your checks made payable to the "Clark Band." **The Band fee may also be paid by credit card in person or on-line at Clarkband.org.** They vary, based on what grade your child is in. Check the website (clarkband.org), or the last page of this newsletter, under your child's grade for details. The fees are to pay for the band t-shirts, polo shirts, pizza parties, prizes, solo and ensemble piano players, band contest entry fees, clinicians, judges, etc... Please write your child's name in the Memo section if you are sending a check.

Instrument Rental Fees: (This is only for renting for a school-owned instrument)

All students using a school-owned instrument: Oboe, Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, Tenor Sax, Baritone Sax, French Horn, Euphonium, or Tuba need to make a payment to **MyPaymentsPlus**. Your account should already have an instrument rental fee listed. This fee is for routine chemical cleaning and maintenance done during the summer following use. Please make this payment by the first day of Summer Band.

Monday, August 24th -- First Day of School:

We will play on the first day of school. Please have your child bring their instrument, equipment and supplies for rehearsal.

Shirt Sizing - Band t-shirt (all students) and Polo (returning band members only):

Tuesday, August 25th and Wednesday, August 26th

If you can help, during the day, please contact Allison Kullenberg or Rhonda Mendez at volunteervp@clarkband.org. We are looking for two to four parents to help during the day. Please check the Band Handbook (Clarkband.org) for details about our uniform policy. We will be using the same uniforms as last year. The cost of the polo shirt is **\$25.00**, and it will be used for the next two years. If you no longer have a Band t-shirt, if it is damaged,

or if it no longer fits, the replacement cost is **\$15.00**. Please note that all Concert, Honor, and Symphonic Band students must also purchase black dress shoes, black socks, black dress pants, and a black belt. Ladies may wear low heeled, closed-toed shoes, and a long, at least ankle-length, black dress, if they prefer. No strapless or low-cut dresses will be allowed. Please, take the time to purchase all parts of the uniform before school begins. We encourage students to wear their Band t-shirt to school to show spirit and pride in their award winning band! Remember, being in the Cougar Band is cool!!

Band Booster Meeting:

Thursday, August 27th at 7:00pm 7th and 8th grade parents

Thursday, August 27th at 6:00pm 6th grade parents

We will discuss the events of the year and answer some of the many questions that you may have. Our earnest desire is that you and your students have a positive, uplifting experience while you are here at Clark.

Step-Up Instruments:

This is a great time to look into step-up instruments. Now that your child has shown how much they enjoy playing in 6th grade, look at the next level. A step-up instrument should last a student through 8th grade, high school, and perhaps college. It is of 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: Lyric II, Emerson Model 8B, Jupiter 911 “DiMedici”, or Miyazawa

Clarinet: Buffet R13

Alto Saxophone: Selmer S80 Series II or Series III

Trumpet: Yamaha 8335 “Xeno” or Bach S180-37 “Stradivarius”

Trombone: Bach 42 BO or Conn 88HO

Contact a band director about finding the best deal for you on a new or used instrument!

If your family would have to make a choice between getting a new instrument OR taking private lessons, choose private lessons!

Finally, new cougar band spirit items including car decals and yard signs are available!! Go to **Clarkband.org** and click on Spirit Items to see what we have available.

We certainly are looking forward to meeting and working with each of you and your children throughout the coming year. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at:

Ben Katz, Band Director

KatzB@friscoisd.org

469-633-4621

Kennedy Scott, Assistant Band Director

KennedyS@friscoisd.org

469-633-4623

John Timpani, Assistant Band Director

TimpaniJ@friscoisd.org

469-633-4622

Chad Wallace, Percussion Instructor

WallaceC@friscoisd.org

469-633-5633

Cougar Band Fees

We understand that many of us are struggling financially; we can help! Please, do not allow money to be the reason that your family chooses not to play with us. We can work together so that your child can participate in band and have a wonderful experience.

We try to inform you of **every** cost, up front, so that there will be no surprises. However, the following listed amounts **do not** include **Hurricane Harbor**

Please make all checks or money orders out to the “**Clark Band**” The Band fee may also be paid by credit card in person or on-line at Clarkband.org.

Beginners:

(Band Fees are in addition to instrument and musical supplies)

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

\$15.00 - Social Fee for parties, sodas, special “treats” etc.

TOTAL \$ 30.00

7th Graders

We know this is a large expense, but it will be cheaper for you next year!!

1. \$ 25.00 - Band “Polo” Shirt (For all performances, contests & concerts)

2. \$ 5.00 - Flip folder for holding music

3. \$ 7.00 - Lyre- attaches the flip folder to the instrument

(Needed by all instruments EXCEPT percussion, flutes, oboes, bassoons)

4. \$35.00 - Solo and Ensemble Fee, Spring Band Contest Fee

5. \$15.00 - Social Fee for parties, sodas, special “treats” etc.

6. \$8.00 – Recording Fee – A digital recording is made of every concert for your family

TOTAL- \$ 95.00 <---This figure will be less if you already own a Lyre & Flip folder!

In addition to the above, Uniform Attire needs to be purchased:

Black Slacks, Black Belt, Black Socks, & Black Dress Shoes...

**** If you need a new Band tee shirt \$15.00**

8th Graders

1. \$35.00 - Solo and Ensemble Fee, Spring Band Contest Fee

2. \$15.00 - Social Fee for parties, sodas, special “treats” etc.

3. \$8.00 – Recording Fee – A digital recording is made of every concert for your family

TOTAL- \$ 58.00

****If you need any of the above items, from 7th grade again, please add to fees accordingly. (i.e. flip folder, lyre, band polo, band tee shirt)**