

The Moody Blue Devils Band

Dr. Bradley K. Sargent, Director

brad.sargent@sccboe.org

714 High School Drive

Moody, AL 35004

205-640-1995 - phone

Dear Prospective Band Parent:

This week, I had the pleasure of administering a music aptitude survey to all 6th graders at Moody Middle School. The students asked good questions, and many were interested in making a commitment to the band for the fall 2016 semester. Because of the high level of interest I received, I would like to answer several questions and give you an opportunity to indicate to me that you would like to enroll your child in band for the fall semester. If so, I will be happy to pass your wishes along to our junior high counselor.

To enroll your student in band for fall semester: Send an e-mail to brad.sargent@sccboe.org with "Beginner Band" in the subject heading. In the body of the message, please include your name, your student's name, and your wish for your student to be enrolled in beginner band. I will compile these and pass them along to our counselor.

Frequently Asked Questions:

What does my child need to know about music right now to be in band? Nothing! They will learn everything they need to know from the beginning.

Can my child play any instrument he/she wants? Students will get a chance to make a sound on all the band instruments during the first few days of class. After a couple of weeks, students and parents will attend beginner instrument night to meet with me and make a final selection. Either way, choosing an instrument to play is a group effort (you, your child, and the band director) to find the best fit for you, your child, and the band program.

When the time comes, how do I get an instrument? A local music store will bring instruments to the school on beginner instrument night early in the fall semester. The store will have instruments available for purchase or rent-to-own. Though parents are under no obligation to do business with any particular store, students are asked to have instruments in class no later than one week following instrument selection night, and the selection of a good quality instrument is crucial to your child's enjoyment of the band experience. If in doubt, please bring the instrument by for an evaluation.

I played an instrument in school and still own it. Can my child play that instrument? In most cases YES! It has been my experience that if a parent is successful on one instrument, their child will be also. Just make sure that we get that old instrument checked-out so that we can verify that it is playable.

How much does an instrument cost through the music store? It depends on the instrument. The music store will have information on rental and purchase plans at the fall beginner meeting.

I can't afford an instrument; can my child still be in band? Some instruments are school-owned and do not require individual ownership (tuba, baritone, French horn). If your child is a good fit on one of those, I will assist you in getting your child on a school instrument for a nominal rental fee. You as a parent will be responsible for any maintenance and repairs needed while the instrument is in your child's possession. Please be aware that behavior, work ethic, grades, and performance potential are huge factors when making the final decision to let your child borrow a school instrument.

Can I go ahead and purchase an instrument now? Please hold off on that for now. Wait for more specific information to be sent home before buying one.

Can my child be in band and athletics? It depends, but most likely, yes. Because most students will not begin marching band until 9th grade, your student will enjoy junior high band without required after-school or weekend commitments. Currently, there are no junior high in-school or after-school activities that conflict with band. This arrangement changes at the high school level, but at that point, if your child has become serious about pursuing different activities, we will talk about which choices, if any, need to be made at that time.

Must my child play in band to be eligible to try out for an auxiliary unit (color guard, majorettes, or dance line)? Yes! Beginning in the fall semester of 2015, students who have not already served on one of these lines must be enrolled in band and remain in band in order to try out for a squad and remain on a squad. Band members are eligible to try out during their 8th grade year.

What's the next step? Please e-mail me to indicate your level of interest. If you need more information, please contact me at any time.

Dr. Bradley K. Sargent, Director of Bands

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