



Band Invitation Letter

Dear 5th Grade Parents and Students,

We would like to invite your child to join one of Belton's oldest and most successful traditions - **BAND!** In middle school, we teach the following band instruments: flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, euphonium (baritone), tuba, and percussion. No prior experience is necessary! In order to decide which instrument your child is best suited to play, we require both of you to come to **just one** of our Instrument Placement Nights that we offer at each of the 4 middle schools in Belton. Instrument selections are based on physical characteristics, your child's natural abilities, instrument preference, and our professional opinion. At that time, they will choose their **top 3** instrument choices based on the ones they tried. Join us at just one of the following Instrument Placement Nights:

- Tuesday, February 16 at Lake Belton Middle School: 5:00-5:40pm, 6:15-7:05pm, or 7:30-8:10pm
- **Thursday, February 18 at Belton Middle School: 5:30-6:15pm, 6:30-7:15pm, or 7:30-8:15pm**
- Thursday, February 25 at North Belton Middle School: 5:00-5:45pm, 6:15-7:00pm, or 7:15-8:00pm
- Tuesday, March 2 at South Belton Middle School: 5:30-6:15pm, 6:30-7:15pm, or 7:30-8:15pm

The following instruments are furnished by the parents through outright purchase or a rent-to-own purchase plan from a reputable dealer: flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, and percussion. Any instrument that is pre-owned or used should be checked over by a director or an instrument repairperson. Percussion has a highly-selective evaluation process, and each middle school only selects **8-10 students** to study this specialized instrument family. Students who are interested in percussion should have at least 2 other instrument choices selected, preferably a woodwind and brass instrument. Instruments that are furnished by the school include oboe, bassoon, French horn, euphonium, and tuba for an annual fee of \$100. Accessories and books are purchased from music dealers.

In the Beginner's Ensemble, we perform 5 times throughout the school year, including their first Sit-in Concert (October), Holiday Concert (December), Solo & Ensemble Contest (February), Temple College Contest (May), Band-O-Rama Spring Concert (May), and a fun spring trip (May) at the end of the year! Band is very special and each instrument is unique and fun. We welcome and encourage your child to join one of the BEST groups at school! Have your child fill out their middle school registration choice sheet and choose **Beginning Band** as their first elective choice, and then return the sheet to the school by the due date. If you absolutely cannot attend one of the 4 band nights, you must contact Mr. Pulley **ASAP** to set up an evaluation appointment to choose an instrument. Once again, no prior musical training is necessary! Selecting an instrument must be done early so as to schedule Band in the correct

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class. Each instrument is taught in a specific class period, and students must be sure to get in the correct Band class.

After your student has tried the instruments at an Instrument Placement Night, they will list their 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choice of instrument. In May, they will be mailed a letter with their instrument assignment. We work hard to give 1st or 2nd choices. Our main focus is matching the student with the instrument on which they will be the most successful. We look forward to working with students who have a great attitude, a strong work ethic, and a desire to have fun learning!

Participation in Band has proven to be a tremendous incentive for maintaining a good academic record and developing self-discipline that comes with mastering a musical instrument. In the South Belton Band, we teach the **Five Guidelines for Success**: Be Punctual, Be Prepared, Be Disciplined, Be Relentless, and Be Superior. One of the biggest areas to ensure student success in Band is the parent's sincere interest and support of their child's study of their instrument.

The very best that we, as the directors and parents, can bring to your child's life is the understanding of the priceless value of commitment, perseverance, and positive habits. It is a gift that will serve them well throughout their lives. So come join the bandwagon and learn to cultivate a lifelong skill - making music! If you have any questions, please call or email one of the band directors below. We look forward to meeting you at one of the Instrument Placement Nights to start your child's musical journey!

Sincerely,

Chris Pulley
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Patrick Trahan
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Ian Smith
Percussion Director (percussion speciality)
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