

## WHY JOIN BAND?

Imagine attending a new school and not knowing anything about where to go, or who to talk to. The transition from elementary school to a jr./sr high school is easier for band students because you will have over 60 friends to help you through this process. Incoming band members have immediate contact with upperclassmen, in a big brother/big sister kind of way. High school band is very healthy for students in a multitude of ways.

### The Facts

- We know that high school band students represent the top of the academic scale in schools. We know that band students are averaging 62 points higher on SAT tests, which would indicate that they are stronger in verbal and math scores than other members of the student body. We also know band students are students who enjoy a successful high school career, go on to college and become the leaders in our society. There is a definite link between the top achiever academically and the band student. They are one and the same.
- In *The Arts: An Essential Ingredient in Education*, J. Buchen Milley states that "research shows that when arts are included in the student's curriculum, reading, writing and math scores improve. Like all arts, music has a profound effect on the academic success of the student. Band is a group effort. Members are required to shift from an I/Me reasoning to a We/Us concept. This means extending oneself beyond the normal considerations of much of our day-to-day living. Instead of the logic being, what's in it for me, it becomes, what's in it for us. The values of cooperation, communication, concentration, correlation and completion come into play each rehearsal and performance."
- Music is one of the few academic disciplines that require the student to master skills and apply them in performance. In other words, music involves multiple forms of learning.
- Band builds positive self-worth. Although we share many similarities with our athletic counterparts, band is a place for everyone.
  - Studies by the College Entrance Examination Board show that:
  - "New research on intelligence and brain function point in exciting future directions that tie directly to music, while the continuing use of music as part of the curriculum is clearly associated with both academic skills and personal characteristics that are highly desirable for school progress and for developing the kind of well-educated young people we need for the nation's well-being."
  - Students (1999) with experience in music performance scored measurably higher in both verbal and math sections of the Standardized Achievement Test.
  - There continues to be a significant, and growing, spread between the scores obtained by musicians and those of their non-musical counterparts.
  - The correlation between cognitive learning and musical understanding continues to prove they are linked, and improving one will develop the other. In fact, music is suspected to be the key for unlocking the scientific mind.
  - The theory of "multiple intelligences" tags music as one of the separate minds, and being exposed to music strengthens all other learning forms.
  - Scores rise proportionately higher with the length of time spent studying music in school.

Why should you consider joining the high school band? Because high school band is unlike anything you have done before. It can greatly enhance your high school career, and it is, very simply, the best experience.

"Band gives me an out, from the normal classroom on an everyday basis." - **Junior in HS Band.**

"I joined band because Mr. Redlin was cool. He really knows how to communicate with us." - **Junior in HS Band.**

"Band to me is quite simple, a family. We play as one; we protect each other; we are a family." - **Freshman in HS Band.**

"Music is everywhere we look-everywhere we go...I joined band and choir because I love to make music." - **Sophomore in HS Band.**

"I was told I would be more successful in high school if I joined band. I am in the top 5 of my class, and I have band to thank for that!" - **Junior in HS Band.**

"I joined band because I had a lot of fun learning to play my flute and Mr. Redlin was nice! - **8th grader.**

"I decided to become a band director because of the kids. I taught percussion for many years before becoming a band director. The kids I taught had a passion for music that I had never seen before. I always loved listening to music and playing in school from 5-12<sup>th</sup> grade. The most important thing to me in education is making sure the students are learning, retaining the information, and having fun. If they are doing these three things, my program will be successful!" - **Mr. Redlin**



*Where words fail, music speaks...*