



Newton County Middle School Bands

Cousins Middle School
Indian Creek Middle School
Liberty Middle School
Veterans Memorial Middle School



May 19, 2010

Dear Parent of:

Your rising Middle School student has the opportunity to make a very important decision about one of the classes they can choose to take for the next three years, and through High School and College.

All 6th grade students have the opportunity to register for an outstanding band program at any Newton County Middle School. Band is an exploratory course that is part of every Middle School curriculum in Newton County and is not an extra curricular activity. The band program is a yearlong class students attend during one of their exploratory class periods. Students must enroll in this class at the beginning of the school year. Students starting this program **do not have to read music and do not have to know what instrument they wish to play**. Students will have a chance to explore all of the band instruments during the first several weeks of the school year. A parent meeting will be called prior to the students starting their study of one band instrument. At this very important meeting, information about the purchase of, or rental programs for all types of band instruments will be provided as well as information about the expectations for Middle School Band Students.

Why should a student join the band? Many studies have shown that music education increases early brain development and improves students' overall academic performance. Current research shows that music:

- Enhances higher brain function
- Improves reading and math performance
- Raises IQ and SAT scores
- Develops higher critical thinking skills
- Teaches the habit of excellence
- Builds teamwork skills and enhances cooperation
- Provides self-paced learning and mental concentration
- Prepares children for the future

Therefore, students that participate in formal music training generally have higher CRCT and Writing test scores due to the nature of their musical studies. Students in band must strive for success by achieving their personal best on a daily basis. As a result, students are learning the value of hard work and the pursuit of excellence in all of their endeavors. Many of our band students receive honors and awards therefore validating the strong work ethic they can develop while striving to perfect their many fundamentals and performance tasks. The most successful Band students in Newton County have already been awarded scholarships to attend Summer Music Camps on Major College Campuses and are preparing themselves to pursue college scholarships for their educational future.

To register for the Band program at the Middle School you will attend, please complete the attached form and return it to the band director at the Middle School you are choosing to attend prior to May 28th, 2010. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact any or all of us at any time via e-mail or phone.

Clements Middle School, Freund.Laura@newton.k12.ga.us, 770-784-2934, **Cousins Middle School**, Kraemer.Christine@newton.k12.ga.us, 770-786-7311, **Indian Creek Middle School**, Kever.Camilla@newton.k12.ga.us, 770-385-6453, **Liberty Middle School**, Koterba.Kristin@newton.k12.ga.us, 678-625-6617, **Veterans Memorial Middle School**, Little.James@newton.k12.ga.us, 770-385-6893.

Sincerely,

Laura Freund, Christine Kraemer, Camilla Kever, Kristin Koterba, James Little
Band Directors, Newton County Middle Schools



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Indian Creek Middle School
Liberty Middle School
Veterans Memorial Middle School



6th Grade Band Registration

Middle School Attending: _____

Student Name (Full) _____

Name Called _____

Parent / Guardian Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Elementary School _____

Have you studied Music Before? (Piano, Violin, etc.)

If Yes, How Long have you studied music? _____

What extra curricular activities do you participate? (Sports, Scouts, Dance, etc.)

Is there any other information you wish to share at this time? (I.E. A family member is a part of a band program, you already own a band instrument, etc.)

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO YOUR FUTURE MIDDLE SCHOOL BY May 28, 2010.

Cousins Middle School
8187 Carleton Trail
Covington, GA 30014

Indian Creek Middle School
11051 South Covington By-Pass Rd
Covington, GA 30014

Liberty MS
5225 Salem Road
Covington, GA 30016

Clements Middle School
66 Jack Neely Road
Covington, GA 30016

Veterans Middle School
13357 Browns Bridge Road
Covington, GA 30016

Parent Signature

Student Signature