



Don Estridge High Tech Middle School Music Department Beginning Band Elective

Dear Parents and Students,

You and your child will soon be selecting their 2021-22 middle school schedules. At Don Estridge High Tech we are very proud of our award winning band program and hope your child will take advantage of this fantastic opportunity.

Beginning band will be offered as a year long course with brass, percussion, woodwind and brass offered. Currently over 4,000,000 students perform in public school music programs throughout the country! Participation in music should be encouraged by you to further enrich your child's basic education and cultural understanding. Through participation in music, your child will develop greater self confidence, problem solving skills, goal setting, responsibility, mental/physical discipline, coordination, dexterity and self expression. Research by Harvard University has shown that students who study music score significantly higher than the average on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). Further, the group activity of band develops cooperation, unity, social skills and teamwork. Music is not a frill. It is one of the basics, a building block that serves as the foundation for one of the brain's higher cognitive functions. In addition, music can lead the way to many varied careers and/or opportunities. At the very least, your child will grow in the joy of building an appreciation of the arts and achieving a truly balanced education.

Please do not get an instrument until your child has been properly "fitted" this process will be done in class at the beginning of the school year in class. We will see that your child begins with the instrument to which they are best suited. Parents, please do not rent or purchase instruments before consulting with the band director. Also note that we have been taking every precaution regarding the Covid-19 situation and are confident our protocols have been effective. Safety is and will always be our top priority.

For students interested in starting over the summer please contact me for more information on summer programs. YOPBC has an excellent summer camp program that I highly recommend. (561) 281-8600 or www.yopbc.org

Classes fill up fast and are filled on a first come first serve basis. Thank you for your time and feel free to contact me at michael.fraley@palmbeachschools.org if you have any questions or if I can be of any assistance.

PS - Class registration was early this year, if your child is interested in band but didn't select the class in time please contact me ASAP.

Sincerely,

Michael Fraley
Band Director
(561) 989-7853