

August 13, 2018

Dear Beginner Band Parents:

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the T. A. Dugger Band Program. Your child has expressed an interest in participating in our school band program. We hope that he or she will play an active role in the T. A. Dugger Band because we believe that it offers a variety of unique opportunities to its members.

Music is an important part of our world, and being involved in the band program offers an exciting experience to both you and your child. This type of program helps a student to develop self-confidence and discipline; more importantly, it teaches children about the art of music, its theory and technique, and performance skills.

The most important factors involved in becoming a member of the band are a genuine interest in and desire to play a musical instrument. We encourage anyone who is interested in the music program to participate, as there is a place for every student who has the willingness to work hard, become involved in a group effort, and demonstrate leadership, commitment, and integrity. Students without this desire should consider other options offered through the exploratory program at T. A. Dugger. Band **is not** a class to be taken in order to be with friends or to avoid enrolling in other exploratory classes. Learning to play an instrument is a lot of hard work at school and at home. Band (and music in general) requires a dedication not found in many other programs offered to students at this age and we set high expectations for the program. Students need to understand that band is not like other classes, band is a performance class and students are expected to participate in and outside of the regular class period.

As a rule band students are expected to purchase their own instrument. The T.A.Dugger Band Program has a few limited options for those families who wish their child to participate in band but who are currently financially unable to meet this requirement. One exception to this rule is made for students who play larger instruments such as tubas, baritones, and French horns. The school loans these larger instruments to individual students who desire to play them and who pass the mouthpiece test for that particular instrument. Repairs to instruments due to mishandling while in a student's care are the financial responsibility of the student and family. In addition to acquiring an instrument, students also must purchase a method book for class. The method book we will be using is called Essential Elements Book 1. The first level book in this series is available for around \$10 at area music stores.

We hope that you share your child's interest in the band program at T. A. Dugger. The tradition of great bands from our school is very impressive. With a commitment from you and your child, the T. A. Dugger Band program can continue to carry on this tradition. Remember, it all starts here at the beginner level with **regular home practice!**

In the meantime, if we can be of any assistance or answer any questions, feel free to call us at T. A. Dugger (547-8025 ext. 2514). We look forward to working with you and your child this year.

Musically,

Chris Lockhart & Perry Elliott, Directors