Cuthbertson Middle School Band

Greetings **6th grade** band students and parents; welcome to the 2026-27 school year! One of Cuthbertson's goals is to go "practically paperless", so we will be communicating through our weekly newsletter and Canvas.

PLEASE READ ENTIRE WELCOME LETTER – LOTS OF IMPORTANT INFORMATION INCLUDED!

If this is your first band child – welcome to the band family! It might seem like a lot of new and different information at first, but soon you will be in tune with how the band operates. We have a great new parent mentor program in place. Contact Mrs. Ebert at Katie.ebert@ucps.k12.nc.us if you would like to participate.

Basic Band Information

- **6th grade** instruments will be delivered to CMS and passed out to students the 1st week of school (students will bring them home on Friday). If you have not made rental arrangements yet, please contact Music and Arts 704-341-0000 to rent an instrument.
- We will be using the **Tradition of Excellence Book 1** (it's red) for our music book and each student will need to have their own copy. If the rental instrument did not come with a book, students will need to purchase their own copy for class. It can be purchased through Music and Arts online, Amazon, or JW Pepper. A music stand is also beneficial for at home practice time.
- Students participating in 6th grade band will be divided up into 2 classes based on the instrument they play, either Brass (will include Saxophones also) or Woodwinds (will include French Horns also). Being grouped with similar instruments makes for an easier time learning beginning band techniques.
- Part of the beginning band is to find the best instrument fit for each student. It's very common for students to switch to different instruments during this time to find their best fit. It's super easy and quick for the music store to switch out instruments, so no worries. It's part of the process!
- **Mattress fundraiser sale** - Save the date - November 14th!
- **Band Information Sheet -** We need all families to scan the QR code and fill out our required band information sheet.
- Our Band Handbook has detailed policies regarding band - https://cuthbertsonbands.org/middle-school-bands/

Concert Schedule – all dates are for 6th grade band. Cut away this portion to post on your calendar or refrigerator!

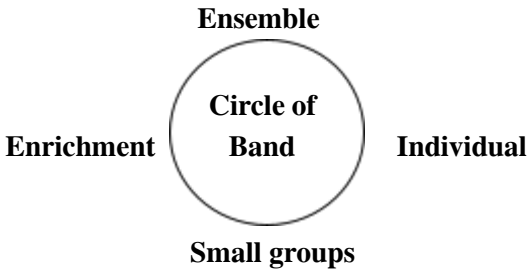
All performances are considered mandatory participation and are graded events. It is impossible to have a truly successful performance unless each member is in attendance. Therefore, we always give advance notice for performances so all members can arrange their calendars accordingly. Please do not schedule appointments or make out-of-town trips when a performance is scheduled!

Winter Concert and Holiday Bazaar (6th, 7th and 8th grades)	December 5th (Saturday AM)
Solo and Ensemble Festival (optional)	May 8th
Spring Concert (6th, 7th and 8th grades)	May 18th

Concert Attire

All students will need to wear the CMS Band T shirt for concerts ($18) as well as black pants. Shirt order and payments can be made in BoosterHub - https://cuthbertsonband.boosterhub.com/home/270

Band Information Page



Grading Policy

30% Performance Attendance (Concerts, performances, etc.)
20% Practice Records (due Mondays) - parent initials required. This will start the 2nd 6 weeks.
20% Weekly assignments on Canvas
30% Participation (daily grade – includes having these items in class every day: **instrument** (sticks or mallets for percussionists), **music and red book**, at least three working reeds (clarinets and saxophones), at least two working reeds and a water canister (double reeds) and a **pencil**.

Homework - due Mondays

P**ractice Records... are part of Student Grades!** This is part of why our bands sound so good every year. Students start recording minutes on Mondays and end with Sunday and are accepted with parent signature to verify the time was met. Please help your student to write the time down as they do it, rather than try to "remember" on Sunday night. Some families keep the practice record up on the fridge for easy access and a good reminder. Students will write down how many minutes they practice daily and the goal is for records to show **100** minutes of total weekly practice time.

Instrument Repair

If a student's instrument is being repaired, **please bring a note signed by a parent** and make every effort to secure a "loaner" instrument to be used until the instrument is returned. Students will need to use their own mouthpiece for the loaner instrument until their instrument is finished with repairs. Students will still be expected to participate in class while repairs are occurring.

Canvas - https://ucps.instructure.com/courses/396996

Professional Instruction

Sessions are held once a week in 30 minute sessions taught by professionals on the instrument. Lessons are designed to help students learn additional techniques or get extra help. Students may sign up individually or join our 6th grade instrument CLUBS right after school on Thursdays from 4:15-4:45 (starting September 24th). *Many parents have found that enrolling their child in private lessons pays back when they receive college scholarships.* **Sign ups are happening now!**

Free Melodies

This is once a week, free 30 minute tutoring sessions run by our high school students is designed to give enrichment for beginning to mid-level students. Free Melodies will be held on Tuesdays starting in November.

Band Booster Organization - https://cuthbertsonband.boosterhub.com/register/18062 - log in to create your parent account!

We have a wonderful group of band parents that support that band and have made communication a top priority. There have two main sources of information:

- Weekly Band Blast emails. We have lists for high school and middle school families.
- Facebook- We have a group titled Cuthbertson Bands Parents/Guardians. Please answer all of the membership questions. This group is for parents/guardians only, no students or extended family please. We use the FB page to post things that cannot wait for the weekly band blast, as well as travel information when our bands travel to performances, so we take security of this page seriously.
- Our band booster organization partners with Levy Restaurants to work a concessions stand at the Bank of America stadium for the NFL, CLT FC, and Concert Series each year. We are able to raise around $20,000 annually to support the MS and HS concert programs, and add additional events to support the extracurricular ensembles and some travel. Every volunteer shift raises about $200, and each event raises about $1500. This is easy money and a great way to fundraise without leaning on our circles to donate money. All we need is your time- if every family volunteers for 2 concession shifts, we'd have more than enough people to fulfill our obligation.

To our parents, we want to thank you specifically for supporting this wonderful endeavor for your child. We know that it takes extra time to bring your children to rehearsals, make sure they transport their instrument back and forth, and just be a cheerleader at home during your child's hard work. Thank you so much for all of the extra things you do to help your child and our school. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us!

Musically yours,

Katie Ebert, Director of Bands CMS - Katie.ebert@ucps.k12.nc.us
Todd Ebert, Director of Bands CHS - Todd.ebert@ucps.k12.nc.us
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