York Preparatory Academy

Band of Revolution

1047 Golden Gate Court

Rock Hill, SC 29732

(803) 324-4400 ext. 1133

Director of Bands, Travis Foster

Dear Parent/Guardian

Your child will be given a wonderful opportunity to join the York Preparatory Academy Patriot Band next school year as he or she enters the 6th Grade. I am excited about next year in hopes that we can continue to build the band program here at YPA. I want your child to be part of that growth and part of the awesome experience.

Joining the band is completely optional. However, if your child does not join in the 6th grade, it will be difficult to join in the 7th and especially the 8th. As of this moment, the schedule for next year is very promising in letting me recruit a large number of rising 6th grade students. Your child does not have to have any previous knowledge or experience with music. They have had great exposure and a good foundation for understanding music in their elementary music classes. Overall, all they need is a good attitude and the desire to learn and be part of a dynamic group.

Middle School band does not affect any sports within the school or outside of school. Band meets as a regular class. The Winter and Spring Concert will be posted well in advanced so that all students can attend and be part of the music making process. Coach Hamrick and I work well to avoid any conflicts.

The beginning program will be limited to 50-60 students. The classes will be divided into 25-30 brass/percussion and 25-30 woodwinds/mallets. Even though Band is a year-round class, students will also get to participate in other fine arts (in addition to band, students will get to take Spanish, Art, Computers, PE as their other electives)

Please be prompt in responding to ensure that your child gets to participate in band. All of the 5th grade students have had the opportunity to visit the band room and experience each of the instruments listed for Band. Upon submission of your Child’s Enrollment Form, I will allow him/her to test and try out which instrument before the end of the school year.

Students will get to choose the following to learn:

Flute (8-10)

Clarinet (10-12)

\*Alto Saxophone (limit 6)

Trumpet (10-12)

Trombone (5-6)

\*Baritone (3)(school provided)

\*Tuba (3)(school provided)

\*Percussion (1 percussion for every 7 winds)(ex. 49 winds = 7 percussion)

\*Mallet Percussion (1-4)

\*will not be allowed to exceed the number given.

Anywhere you can find an instrument is ok and well with me:

\*Students playing the FLUTE, CLARINET, ALTO SAXPHONE, TRUMPET and TROMBONE will need to rent (or purchase) and provide their own instrument.

\*Students playing the BARTITONE and TUBA will be provided by the school

\*Students playing PERCUSSION and MALLETS will need to provide their own sticks and mallets.

This year we have partnered up with Howren Music. Howren Music has been renting instruments at GREAT prices for years. Towards the end of August, Howren Music will come down to YPA and orchestrate an Instrument Rental in the evening. You can choose not to rent from Howren. Through Howren, you can get rental insurance and your child’s instrument will be picked up and fixed; hassle free.

However, you may also choose

Ebay.com

Shopgoodwill.com

Craigslist.com

Woody’s Music

Tillman’s Music

Local pawn shops

If finances pose an issue, please contact me ASAP. Please use your best judgment on purchasing instruments online and at pawnshops. Feel free to ask me any questions pertaining to finding an instrument.

Students who express an interest to play a brass instrument will get the opportunity to “try out” a mouthpiece.

Please discuss with your child the instrument they decide to play. Please understand that there is a level of commitment. I also understand that everyone wants to play the “drums.” Drums are very important to a band but a very small portion of the Percussion (cymbals, bass drum, triangle, etc.) section. However it is drastically important to have a well-balanced ensemble so the program grows appropriately. Each section will be limited. (Please refer to the list on the previous page) Students who express the desire to play the percussion must demonstrate their ability.

You will receive confirmation about your child’s participation in band toward the end of the year. I would like to email you about your child’s decision. You will be given information pertaining to renting instruments and any materials needed for next school year’s band.

Please visit the **6th Grade Class Web page** on the York Preparatory Academy website for more detailed information.

Please be prompt in responding to ensure that your child gets to participate in band.

Please feel free to email me:

travis.foster@yorkprepsc.org