



MEIGS ACADEMIC MAGNET BANDS

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My name is Frank Norris, and on behalf of all of our Meigs Band teaching staff and students, I would like to personally welcome you and your family to Meigs Academic Magnet School and extend an invitation for you to become part of our ever-growing Band program.

At Meigs, class schedules are designed so students can take Band *and* participate in all other Related Arts course offerings during 5th and 6th Grade.

We want you to be aware of a few of the benefits of participating in high-quality instrumental music education programs. These benefits will extend outside of the music classroom and into all aspects of your child's life! Students who participate in band programs from an early age develop:

- greater self-confidence
- more rapid development of hand-eye coordination skills
- a better sense of self-expression
- a heightened sense of responsibility, cooperation, and teamwork

Additionally, numerous studies conducted by the top research institutes in the United States have proven that, *when measured against their grade-level peers*, students who actively participate in instrumental music education programs throughout their middle and high school years will:

- maintain higher test scores in Math and Language Arts subjects
- achieve & maintain higher overall Grade Point Averages (GPA)
- have higher daily attendance rates
- achieve an average of twenty percent higher on ACT & SAT tests

The Meigs Band have sustained success in our performance level as proven through years of Advanced/Superior ratings in our State Concert Band Assessment performances. We have also developed a highly respected regional & national standing. In 2014 and again in 2020 our program was selected to represent the state of Tennessee at the annual Tennessee Music Educators Association Conference, which is the top honor an instrumental music program can receive within our state. In both 2016 and 2018, the Meigs Wind Ensemble was named **National Grand Champion Honor Band** in performance competition against bands from throughout the United States. The Meigs Wind Ensemble was also selected to perform at the 2019 Music for All Southeast Region Concert Festival in Atlanta, GA.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS BY INCOMING STUDENTS AND PARENTS

1. I have never played a “band” instrument before and/or I have no music experience. Could I or should I enroll in the Meigs Band? – ABSOLUTELY! In fact, it is rare that students new to Meigs Band have prior experience with their instrument. We gear our program to meet the experience level of all our students, from the very beginning student to 4-year veterans and beyond.

2. What instruments are offered in Beginning Band? – Our first-year students start out with the following instruments:

- Woodwinds – Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon and Alto Saxophone*

*We will begin Alto Saxophone students in the first semester if we have 62 or more students registered for Beginning Band at the beginning of the school year

- Brass – Trumpet, F Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, and Tuba
- Percussion – Students will begin with Concert Snare Drum and Mallet Percussion studies.

3. Does the school provide instruments? –Oboe, Bassoon, Horn, Euphonium, and Tuba are school-provided instruments. Traditionally, most students who start in any beginning band program on Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, and Percussion will visit a local reputable music dealer in order to secure their instrument/percussion equipment needed for the class. However, *Meigs Band will do everything possible to provide students with access to a school-owned instrument if parents are unable to do so.* More information about this will be available at Incoming Student Registration Night.

4. Is Piano offered at Meigs? – While not a primary offering, we highly encourage students who have previously studied or are currently studying piano to become part of the Meigs Band program! *We regularly feature piano on concert selections performed with our advanced ensembles.*

- While Percussion is a strong consideration for our pianists, due in large part to the similarity between piano and mallet percussion instruments, students will still test on and can be placed on any of our beginning instruments!

5. Are Private/Small Group lessons available for Meigs Band students? – YES! We have a robust Small Group/Individual Private Lessons program where students have access to direct instruction on their chosen instrument! Lessons occur at school during band classes (or in some cases right after school), so there is no extra transportation necessary for your students to learn and grow alongside our dedicated professional instruction staff. On average, each year over 85% of all students in the Band program take lessons with a professional every week right here at school!!

6. What is the time commitment outside of class? – Beginning Band students have far fewer after-school commitments than you may imagine! Students can EASILY participate in Band throughout middle and high school and participate in school sports/clubs. My father, brother, and I all played sports into our college years while maintaining our grades and fully participating in Band.

5th Grade students are expected to practice outside of class for 15-20 minutes per day at least five days per week. This is an easy time commitment that also improves student's time management skills. Beginning Band students will also participate in the following activities outside of class during the 5th Grade year:

- **Fall “Jump Start” Camp** – One Saturday morning in late August/early September to help students get a great start with their new instruments. Our teaching staff works with the students on basics specific to their instrument.
- **Fall Semester Concert** – Friday in late November/early December
- **Spring Semester Concert** – late April/early May
- **Solo and Ensemble Assessment Festival** – late April/early May

7. We're ready to be a part of the Meigs Band program! How do we get started? – The single most important thing to do is be sure you have selected BAND PLUS RELATED STUDIES with your orientation and registration packets. If you are unsure whether you have selected the correct class option, please contact us here at school and we will make sure your information is correct. **Please do not delay, as the Band classes fill quickly and typically have a waiting list!**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us as soon as possible via the contact information available with this document. **One-on-one personalized meetings with you and your student are available after school hours and during the summer here at Meigs to help you with the decision-making process.** We look forward to having your child begin their next music journey with us!

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