

SUCCESSFULLY PLACING BEGINNING BAND STUDENTS ON INSTRUMENTS

Sponsor: Texas Bandmasters Association

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TEXAS BANDMASTERS ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

Saturday, July 23, 2005

3:00 p.m.

CC Room 207

SUCCESSFULLY PLACING BEGINNING BAND STUDENTS ON INSTRUMENTS

I. Physical Size

- A. Size of Hands
- B. Length of Arms
- C. Facial Structure

II. Physical Characteristics

- A. Unusual Mouth Structure
- B. Unusual Teeth Structure

III. Strength

- A. Student Characteristics

IV. Coordination

- A. Woodwind Instruments
- B. Percussion
- C. Brass Instruments

V. Probability of Staying with Music

- A. Family Background
- B. Consulting with Elementary Music Teacher

VI. Caution in Placing All “Gifted/Talented” Students on Double Reed and “Color” Instruments

VII. Other Extra-Curricular Interests

- A. Sports/Gymnastics
- B. Cheerleading

VIII. Beginner Drives

- A. Importance of Having Projected 6th/7th Grade Enrollment Numbers for Next Year
- B. Personal Interviews at Elementary Schools
- C. Family Interviews
- D. Large Instrument Fair

YES

Student's name Kelly Stewart

Parent's name Bruce & Brenda

Address 5228 Hendrix Phone 625-1247

School Morningside Grade 5 Room Little homeroom teacher

I have played _____ for _____ years

I would like to play percussion & Flute

Instructor's Information Card

(DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE - FOR INSTRUCTOR'S USE ONLY)

Scholastic record 1,1,1 - hw

Physical characteristics _____

Pitch score 20 (Maximum 32) Instrument recommended:

Chord score 22 (Maximum 32) flute JB

Melody score 12 (Maximum 24)

Rhythm score 22 (Maximum 32)

TOTAL SCORE 76 (Maximum 120) Date _____

Student's name _____

Parent's name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

School _____ Grade _____ Room _____

Information Card No. 21

(DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE - FOR INSTRUCTOR'S USE ONLY)

Instrument recommended _____

Date _____

Signed _____

MORRIS T. GRIFFIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

LEWISVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

MR. JOHN BENZER
DIRECTOR OF BANDS

MR. STEVE SMITH
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF BANDS

1997 SUDLER CUP AWARD RECIPIENT
1993 & 1997 TEXAS CC MIDDLE SCHOOL STATE HONOR BAND

To: Parents of Incoming Sixth Grade Beginning Band Students
From: John Benzer, Director of Bands-Griffin Middle School
Steve Smith, Associate Director of Bands-Griffin Middle School

_____ is invited to be part of the Griffin Middle School Band Program. This invitation is based on the student's score on a musical aptitude survey and on the desire of the student. Mr. Benzer has interviewed your child, considered the student's instrument preference, and checked his/her ability to produce a sound on the various instruments' mouthpieces.

We thank you for your patience in receiving this information in regard to your child becoming enrolled in the Griffin Middle School Band Program. Due to TAAS testing, end-of-the-year field trips/assemblies, and hectic schedules at the elementary schools in May, most students were interviewed by Mr. Benzer at their elementary school during the last two weeks of school. Now that everyone's schedule has hopefully slowed down, we have set dates and times for our Griffin Beginning Band Drives.

It is our professional recommendation that your child enroll for instruction in the sixth grade beginning _____ class, which is an elective which lasts the entire school year and meets on a daily basis.

The meetings listed below will give you specific information regarding our band program at Griffin, an opportunity to see instruments displayed by Brook Mays Music Company of Lewisville (the music company which services the entire Lewisville I.S.D.), and information on instrument rental plans. For your convenience, they will be able to discuss or set up various payment plans and rental contracts with you at this time. We are looking forward to meeting you at the Band Parents' Meeting. We strongly encourage your child to come with you, as much of the information that will be presented is applicable to him/her as well. **IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU PLAN TO ATTEND ONE OF THE INFORMATION MEETINGS SO THAT YOU CAN CONFIRM YOUR CHILD'S INSTRUMENT ASSIGNMENT, AND SO THAT YOUR CHILD CAN THEN BE SCHEDULED FOR BAND!!** If your child is not scheduled in band, another elective will be chosen for you by a Griffin school counselor. The meeting is a come-and-go-as-you-please session; thus, you will *not* need to be in attendance during the entire time block. You will be able to meet with a Griffin Band Director in a conference any time between 4:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday May 30th (the day after Memorial Day) *or* any time between 4:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 1st.

(NEXT PAGE)

DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 30TH

OR

THURSDAY, JUNE 1ST

TIME: any time from
4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

any time from
4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

LOCATION: **B.B. OWEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA**
5640 SQUIRES (Take North Colony Blvd. east -- turn left on Taylor just past The Colony Aquatic Park. Taylor will lead you up to the B.B Owen parking lot.

Due to construction at Griffin this summer, we do not have access to the band hall at Griffin for these important meetings. Mrs. Marilyn Spence (principal at B.B. Owen and Griffin Band Parent) has graciously offered her campus as an alternate site for our meetings.

There will be students who will greet you at the B.B. Owen main entrance with an information packet.

IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND *EITHER* MEETING DUE TO VACATION PLANS OR OTHER CONFLICTS, PLEASE CONTACT MR. BENZER AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE AT (817)858-6864 TO SET UP AN APPOINTMENT TO ENROLL YOUR CHILD IN BAND. MANY OF OUR BEGINNING BAND CLASSES ARE FILLING UP FAST, SO THESE ALTERNATE APPOINTMENTS NEED TO BE SCHEDULED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

If we can be of further assistance to you, please call or leave a message with Mr. Benzer at (817)858-6864. If not, we look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, May 30th or Thursday, June 1st!

John Benzer
John Benzer
Director of Bands
Griffin Middle School

Steve Smith
Steve Smith
Associate Director of Bands
Griffin Middle School

GOODSON MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND INFORMATION / INSTRUMENT SELECTION SHEET

PARENTS – please fill out the following information:

STUDENT NAME _____

TO THE PARENTS OF: 052/133
WANG, WENQIAD
15334 BENT TWIG WAY
CYPRESS TX 77433-4621

Parent Name _____

Home address _____

Home phone _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (Circle one) - Ault Farney Lamkin Robison Sampson

The rest is to be filled out with a director

Grades _____

Gifted/Talented/ HORIZONS program _____

Conduct grade _____

K Level classes _____

On level classes _____

INSTRUMENT

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

Students testing on percussion need to have a definite 2nd choice

PLEASE BRING THE SHEET BACK TO A GOODSON BAND DIRECTOR WHEN YOU ARE FINISHED

GOODSON MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND INFORMATION / INSTRUMENT SELECTION SHEET

PARENTS - please fill out the following information:

STUDENT NAME

TO THE PARENTS OF: 052/140
BALL, KELLY LYNN
17342 HILL LAKES CT
CYPRESS TX 77429-6709

Parent Name NANCY BAU

Home address _____

Home phone 281-256-2938 EMAIL ADDRESS NANCY@BAUHOME.COM

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (Circle one) - Ault Farney Lamkin Robison Sampson

The rest is to be filled out with a director

Grades A - few B's

Gifted/Talented/ HORIZONS program

Conduct grade E's

K Level classes _____

On level classes _____ guitar 12 months

INSTRUMENT

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

1. flute

made sound w/ work
good hand position, tight embouchure

2. percussion

timing-o.k.
but faltered
when we cycled
hands.

not recommended

Score: 86

rhythmic echoing
good but grip not natural

3. cornet

loose lip buzz, slow buzz

4. clarinet

good chin + embouchure + nice
softer sound good range

Students testing on percussion need to have a definite 2nd choice

PLEASE BRING THE SHEET BACK TO A GOODSON BAND DIRECTOR WHEN YOU ARE FINISHED

Wanna Play Drums?????

Percussion vs. Drums

Beginning band has a **percussion** class. If your child is interested in "playing drums" or learning drumset, this may not be exactly what you are looking for. "Percussion" includes: snare drum, keyboards (i.e xylophone), timpani and accessories (i.e. cymbals, bass drum, triangle etc.)

Drumset at home?

Having a drumset at home does **not** guarantee you a spot in the percussion class. A lot of it depends on the audition procedure.

What is the audition procedure?

Each student will be required to perform a series of rhythm and coordination tests. This includes: foot/hand coordination, hand/finger dexterity, rhythmic imitation, natural stick control, timing skills, and a natural sense of pulse. It had been our experience that students who auditioned well *and* possessed many of the necessary traits ended up being successful in the class. Students who had a difficult time demonstrating these skills, struggled in the class; even those that worked "really hard" and "really wanted it". We want your child to be successful in band and enjoy their band experience; we do our best to place students where their physical attributes lend them to be.

Piano/Drum experience?

Having had piano/ drum lessons will definitely help you in the audition procedure, but will not guarantee you a spot in the percussion class.

Percussion Ratio

We cannot have a band composed of just drummers. There are only 5-6 percussionists in each band at the 7th and 8th grade levels and only 3 bands at that level. Therefore, there can only be 15-18 kids in 7th and 8th grades.

Equipment Limitations

Percussion students perform on school-owned instruments (i.e bass drum, timpani, xylophone, and snare drum). We are limited not only by equipment needs, but also by the musical requirements of the songs we perform. Any given song calls for 4 players (snare drum, bass drum, timpani, and keyboard). If we do not limit the percussion class, there would be many students who did not get to perform in all the songs and would miss out on a great band experience.