



## Madras Middle School 2010-2011 Band Sign-Up Information



Spring 2010

Dear Fifth Grade Parents,

Greetings! My name is Greg Collins and I am the band director at Madras Middle School. Please allow me to take a moment to give you an overview of our band program here at Madras, and to inform you as to how you and your child can become a part of it next year.

Band is one of the most popular "connections" classes offered at Madras. Roughly 25% of our student body is involved in band annually (this is more than twice the national average). **Band classes meet daily and are a year long commitment** – students will remain in band for the full year once they enroll - and are taken for a grade, just like academic classes. **Band students and parents are responsible for providing their own band instruments, so there is a financial commitment.** Most new instruments fall within the \$300.00 - \$600.00 price range. Area music stores allow instruments to be purchased on installment plans with reasonable monthly payments. Used instrument purchase or instrument rental are also alternatives.

Our Madras bands are very active. Each grade level performs winter and spring concerts. Seventh and eighth grade bands perform at our district band competition each spring, where we traditionally receive top scores. We have a pep band which plays for home games and pep rallies. We provide music for our Veterans Day program and Black History Program every year. The Madras band program has been consistently well represented at county, regional, and state-wide honor band events throughout its eleven year history.

Band teaches important personal character attributes in addition to musical skills – teamwork, individual responsibility, and self discipline. It also enhances math and reading skills. Furthermore, band does not pose a conflict with any other club, team sport, or extra-curricular activity at Madras, so students are not forced to choose between band and another activity.

In order to enroll for 6<sup>th</sup> grade band, we will have an evaluation/registration meeting in the Madras cafeteria at the end of our orientation meeting on the evening of May 26th or the evening of May 28th. (Parents may choose which orientation to attend.) At that time each student will be allowed to try instruments individually in order to determine to which he or she is best suited. **Sixth grade band offers instruction in the following instruments: flute; clarinet; trumpet; trombone; and percussion. Please discuss these choices with your child and encourage him or her to have a first and second choice in mind, as some sections of the band fill up quickly (in order to maintain a well balanced sound, we must follow a general quota for each instrument, so as sections fill up no more students will be enrolled on that instrument). Lastly, there will be a registration form which must be completed by a parent or guardian after the evaluation in order for your child to be enrolled in band.** Everyone's individual time at this portion of the orientation should take no more than 10 minutes.

For those unable to attend the orientation, I will have another registration meeting at Madras on an upcoming Saturday morning in May. Local retailers will be present to answer any questions parents might have regarding instrument price, rental versus purchase, new versus used, etc. I am still waiting for R.S.V.P. from several vendors, so when this date becomes set, I will communicate that to you through your child's principal.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to call me at Madras, 770-254-2744, or e-mail me at [gregory.collins@cowetaschools.org](mailto:gregory.collins@cowetaschools.org).

Sincerely,

Greg Collins  
Band Director, Madras Middle School