

August 20, 2018



Dear Band Students and Parents/Guardians,

I am so excited that you have chosen to become a part of the band program at Woodmont Middle School! Parents and students often have questions at the beginning of this journey, and I am here to serve as your guide throughout the process.

Recommendations for instrument assignments are based primarily on the results of mouthpiece testing, as well as the instrumentation needs of the ensemble and each student's individual preference. In some cases, students' preferences and test results align perfectly, and in other cases they are totally different!

I will do my best to ensure that everyone is placed on an instrument with which they will find success. In my experience, students who play the instrument recommended for them enjoy band and find more success than those who disregard the mouthpiece test results. My goal is to lead every student to find a love for music, and it all starts with selecting the right instrument!

Please go ahead and mark your calendar for our Instrument Rental Night on Tuesday, September 18 (drop in between 5:30-7:30pm). This event is designed to provide a convenient and easy way for you to obtain your instrument. Representatives from Musical Innovations will bring contracts and instruments to Woodmont Middle so that you can take your instrument home with you that night.

"What is mouthpiece testing?"

During the first month of school, your student will "try out" each instrument in the band and will receive a score based on their initial aptitude for each instrument.

Physical and facial characteristics are extremely important to consider. For example, someone with thin lips may find that they can naturally make a sound on the trumpet, but may have trouble making a sound on a larger mouthpiece, such as tuba.

Some people are simply meant to play certain instruments! It's our job to find the best physical match for each unique student.

If you are unable to attend Instrument Rental Night, you will need to find some way of securing an instrument before September 21, as students will be **required** to bring their instrument to school on that date. If you decide not to use Musical Innovations, I still highly recommend buying or renting directly from a music store, as some brands are better than others. You can find recommended brands and mouthpieces on my website, woodmontmiddleband.weebly.com.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. I understand that this is a large undertaking, and I am here to help in any way that I can. The only bad question is one left unasked! 😊

I can't wait to start making music together!

Mrs. Caitlin Scott
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Estimated Timeline for Beginning Band 2018-2019

- August 20 First Day of School
- August 27 – September 7 Mouthpiece Testing during class
- September 10 Initial Instrument Assignments announced
- September 14 Lock in Final Instrument Assignments
- September 18 Instrument Rental Night
@Woodmont Middle School
Drop in between 5:30-7:30
- September 21 First day with instruments in class!
- December 4, 6, or 11 (TBA) Winter Concert
@Woodmont High School
6:30 – 7:30