

# 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Beginning Band – Week 1

Welcome to **Beginning Band** at Gresham Middle School!

Congratulations on making this important decision in your child's education. Studying an instrument helps children make friends, work as a team, solve problems, create beautiful sounds, and aids every other academic class. Band students go on to become leaders in every profession and most attribute their professional success to the lessons they learned in band class.

In this course students will learn to read music and play a band instrument. We will meet as a class every day, alternating in the morning with Mr. Mink and the afternoon with Dr. G.

Here's what your student will need:

- **AN INSTRUMENT (either flute, clarinet, trumpet, or trombone)**

If you were fitted for an instrument at your elementary school in the spring (flute, clarinet, trumpet, or trombone) you may go ahead and rent that instrument from Rush's or Lunsford's Music Store here in Knoxville. For several reasons, I highly encourage you to rent an instrument from Lunsford's or Rush's Music for the first year of band. We only learn these four instruments in the sixth grade so we may focus on great technique and minimize student boredom. If you call the store and pay with a credit/debit card over the phone, they will deliver to the school. Both stores visit GMS every week.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE do NOT buy an instrument from an online retailer that doesn't specialize in band instruments. The price may look great, but these instruments are of poor quality, they will not play in tune, they will break, and the local music stores will not fix them. If you would prefer to purchase an instrument, please let me know and I will help you find a quality instrument.

For students who have not been fitted for their band instrument, we will do this the first week of classes. **\*Please make sure your child's name is on the instrument case, either on a luggage tag or decal.\***

- **THE BAND BOOK**

**Sound Innovations, Book 1** for either Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, or Trombone. You will need the specific book for that instrument. The books are \$8.99 and available at the local music stores (Lunsford's and Rush's) and online. We will use this book all year. Students should label their book clearly with their first and last names on the upper right-hand corner of the front cover.

- **A 1" 3-RING BINDER**

Any color. We will keep all handouts, worksheets and music sheets in this binder. The binder should be labeled with your child's first and last name on the front cover of the binder.