



CSMS Stallions Band



Band Director: Mr. James L. McNeil



A Guide for Students and Parents

What Band is All About

Band is about more than just lugging your instrument back and forth to school. It is an experience and a commitment. Band is a Performance Class, where the goals are to learn to play an instrument, learn to play as part of a group, and learn what it takes to master a performance.

The CSMS Band Program



The CSMS Band program includes class instruction, after-school practices, and a variety of live performances. There is Beginning Band for 6th, 7th and 8th grade students,

The Band is under the direction of James L. McNeil. Mr. McNeil's goals are to build one of the best middle school performance bands in Broward County, and to help students build the skills and practice habits that will make them successful in high school and beyond.

Choosing an Instrument

In the first few weeks of school, each student chooses an instrument with the guidance of the Band Director. Each student must have their own instrument. A limited number of instruments are available from the school for an annual cost of \$20. Several local companies offer instrument rental contracts from around \$11 to \$25 per month.

Other Costs

Students are responsible for buying their own supplies (reeds, drumsticks, and cleaning supplies, for example). All students are required to purchase a tuxedo shirt and bow tie. Marching Band students may also need a band jacket.

Practice and Performance Schedule

Practices for Beginning Band and Concert Band run throughout the school year. Performances are typically in December and May. Practices and performances for Marching Band run from September through December.



Commitment

To create and maintain a successful band program requires a dedicated commitment from both teacher, students, and parents. Band students must make a commitment to practice on their own, and to attend all scheduled band practices and performances.

Parents are also needed as volunteers to chaperone students at performances.





Special Events

Participation in the CSMS Band program includes the opportunity to participate in special events.

Marching band students may have the opportunity to play with local high school bands, including Coral Glades and Stoneman-Douglas, and participate in the Coral Springs Holiday Parade.

The Concert Band will perform at local venues, such as the the Stoneman-Douglas Arts Festival and the Coral Springs Center for the Arts, or perform on special band field trips at places like Universal Studios Orlando.

There will also be a year-end awards event for all band students.



The Role of the Band Parents Association

All parents are asked to participate in the CSMS Band Parents Association (BPA). This group exists to help coordinate special events and provide chaperones for events.

The BPA also provides support for the Band Program through annual dues and fund-raising events. This money goes towards the cost of uniforms, providing food and refreshments for after-school practices, and on evenings before performances.

Parents are asked to volunteer for fund-raising events, such as concessions during performances, after-school ice-cream sales, school dances, and student sales events.

The BPA meets monthly to provide parents with an opportunity to meet the Band Director, and to participate in the planning and coordination of upcoming events.



"Band helps to develop a whole, well-rounded student through enriching music and time management. Band is not for the couch potato; we do performances a few times a month all year round. Through these rehearsals and performances, students will become fascinated with a new discovered talent. The goal of this band program is not only to develop young musicians, but also to prepare them for life beyond the walls of the school." *James McNeil, Band Director*

"Being a part of the band is an excellent way to develop a peer group in middle school. Band students have a special camaraderie that extends beyond the classroom." *Victoria Kaufman, Principal*

