

April 13, 2020

Dear Future Bison and Parents,

We hope you have had a fun and memorable final year in elementary school. We understand it has not ended as many of us had wished, but we have no doubt you are succeeding in your on-line studies. Many new doors will be opening soon, and you are about to encounter a wonderful and exciting part of your life. As the band directors at Madison Middle School, we would like to invite you to be a member of the award winning Mighty Bison Band! As you know, taking part in a co-curricular activity, such as band, is a fun way to get involved in middle school. The Bison Band does many exciting things throughout the year, such as play concerts, take trips, and participate in contests, and I hope you choose to become a part of our program!

Very soon you will have the opportunity to choose your elective classes on-line for next year! Please consider choosing band as your elective for the 2020-2021 school year. Our counselors will be sending more information about the on-line process in the next few weeks. Later this summer, we will send information about how we will begin the process of selecting instruments for the Fall semester and the instrument selection dates. At the instrument selections, we will meet with students and parents and decide the instrument you will play for the school year. Until that time, please refrain from purchasing or renting an instrument.

We are so excited about the 2020-2021 school year and we hope you will join us for a great year! Best wishes as you complete your on-line courses and have a blessed summer!

Best Regards,

Mrs. Paula McGrew Mrs. Jennifer Reese

Madison Band Director Madison Band Assistant Director

FAQ's about the Bison Band

1. How much money does it cost to be in the band?

The biggest expense will, of course, be the instrument. Instead of purchasing an instrument, we suggest the rental/purchase plan from our local music store.

Woodwind players (clarinets, saxophones, oboes) will have the added expense of reeds.

Another small expense will be our beginner book.

Please do not let any financial issues keep you from being in band. Please contact us to see how we can be of assistance.

2. Does the school district provide any instruments?

Yes, the school district will provide the more expensive instruments. Tuba, French Horn, Euphonium, Oboe and Bassoon.

3. How do we know what instrument to choose?

We strongly encourage you to attend one of our instrument selection this summer. There will be directors here to help each student make this important decision. This will be a joint decision between the director, parents, and most importantly, the student. We cannot guarantee anything before you try an instrument, but we will do what we can to pair you with the instrument you want to play. There will be a limited number of students to play percussion and saxophone.

4. Are there certain brands of instruments we must use?

Yes, Mrs. McGrew and Mrs. Reece will provide you a list of AISD recommended instrument brands at our instrument selection nights. The brand of instrument you rent/purchase is very important. Please adhere to the list we recommend!

5. Can we be in both band and athletics throughout middle school?

Absolutely! Our administration, coaches and directors make every effort to avoid conflicts in scheduling so that students may participate in both programs. The majority of band students are actively involved in athletics.

Paula McGrew

Jennifer Reece

Band Director

Assistant Director

(325) 692-5661 x7217 (325) 692-5661 x7290

[paula.mcgrew@abileneisd.org](mailto:paula.mcgrew@abileneisd.org)

[jennifer.reece@abileneisd.org](mailto:jennifer.reece@abileneisd.org)