

North Middle School Bands

Timothy Miller, Director
tmiller@vanburenschools.net

47097 McBride
Belleville MI, 48111
734.697.9171 ext. 228

<http://users.ameritech.net/tmiller/northbands.htm>

September 8, 2009

Dear North Band Parents:

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year. While the economic environment has effected the school schedule and offerings, I am looking forward to offer your child many experiences in music through the band program. We will again be running our annual magazine subscription and book sale beginning October 5th. Please save your Magazine renewals for the band program! I encourage you to use the North Bands Website during the year. Here you will find concert schedules, copies of all important correspondence sent home, permission slips and other important information about the band program. With the large number of students in band, your use of the information will assist me greatly. The website address is:

<http://users.ameritech.net/tmiller/northbands.htm>

You can also link to the band website through the school homepage at:

<http://vanburenschools.net/nms/INDEX.HTM>

Each marking period has 2-3 playing assignments to complete as part of the total marking period grade. Students record and submit performance assessments on one of the 6 computers in the classroom. These are graded by me. Students may retake assignments that are unsatisfactory as many times as needed to achieve competency. In addition to class time, the computers will be available before and after school. Just as you are able to track your child's school progress on the Zangle Parent Connect, your child's performance assessments can be tracked via an online "gradebook" for smartmusic called Impact. If your child is in 6th grade, or new to the building, they will need to create a login and password for smartmusic. There is a separate sheet in this packet that describes this in detail. Returning students will be given their login information at the beginning of the year.

There have been many problems with the identification of student instruments. Many of the cases look alike. **I am requiring all students have an Identification tag or other permanent means of identification on their instrument.** This needs to include their name. Instruments with only a colored tag, for example, will not get it returned to you if left on the bus or around the school!

In addition to this letter, you have received a grading policy, classroom management procedures, concert expectations, an information page on Smartmusic, and a calendar of events for the upcoming school year. Students are required to be at all published band functions and concerts so, **Please post the concert dates to your family calendars** and sign the commitment form acknowledging the receipt of this information and **return it to me by Monday, September 14, 2009.** I am also asking for your email address to be able to easily communicate with you. Email is my preferred mode of communication. Please make every effort to attend at least two high school band events during the school year. If you have any questions regarding any of this information, please do not hesitate to contact me, either at school, or via email.

I am looking forward toward a wonderful year!

Sincerely,

Timothy Miller
Director of Bands, NMS