

# Berry Middle School Band Program

The Berry Band is the largest single student group at Berry Middle School. The Berry Band consistently receives superior ratings at state and regional band festivals and competitions. The Berry Band Directors and Staff set high expectations for our students. Meeting and exceeding these expectations are common place in the Berry Band Room.

In addition to classroom experiences such as Beginner Band, 7th Grade Band and 8th Grade Band, Berry Middle School offers and encourages participation in other band activities such as Jazz Band and Chamber Ensembles. The training and instruction in the Berry Band prepares the students for participation with the award winning Spain Park High School Band.

Mr. Wilson and his staff have a sincere passion and love for music and can't wait to share it with your child!



## So...Why Band?

**Higher Scores.** Students with 4 or more years of arts and music study scored 29 points higher on reading and 22 points higher on math and 29 points higher on the writing sections of the SAT College Board test. (College Board SAT, 2008 College-Bound Seniors: Total Group Profile Report)

**Better Skills.** Arts-based learning is known to promote collaboration, creative problem solving and the ability to apply learning across different disciplines. (Neuroeducation: Learning, Arts, and the Brain. Dana Press, 2009)

**More Graduates.** Schools that have music programs have higher graduation rates than those without programs (90.2% compared to 72.9%) . (Harris Interactive survey of high school principals, Spring 2006)

### **About our Director**

Brian Wilson, Director of Bands

Mr. Wilson has been teaching instrumental music since 1997. He is in demand as a clinician and conductor throughout the area. Mr. Wilson holds a Bachelor of Science in Music Education from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and a Master of Music Education from Auburn University.

Mr. Wilson's ensembles have received superior ratings at contests festivals at every level throughout the Southeast. Mr. Wilson plays trombone with the "Shades Mountain Jazz Orchestra" and "Celebration Orchestra" at Shades Mountain Baptist Church. Mr. Wilson is married to Christy Wilson, who works in the Treasury area of Compass Bank and is a trumpeter. They have two daughters, Emily and Molly.



BERRY  
MIDDLE SCHOOL  
BAND



Information &  
Frequently Asked  
Questions

Brian Wilson, Director of Bands

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# Frequently Asked Questions

## HOW DO I PICK MY INSTRUMENT?

Each year the Berry Band holds an instrument tryout in which new students are allowed to try different instruments. After the tryouts a through analysis of the audition and student preference will take place by the band director and student and a decision will be made as to which instrument best suits the student.

## CAN I PLAY SPORTS AND BE IN THE BAND?

Yes! Many band students participate in other activities including sports, cheerleading and academic teams.

## WHEN SHOULD I START IN THE BAND?

Most students who have an interest in band start in the sixth grade, although new students may also join in the 7th grade.

## IS THERE HOMEWORK?

The only “homework” is to play your band instrument. Don’t worry, it’s fun!

## WILL BAND INTERFERE WITH ACADEMICS?

No. In fact a large number of students in the Berry Band are honor students at Berry Middle School. The vast majority of all band rehearsals take place during the band class period. The only regular requirement for band outside of school is individual practice (homework). Also, being in band gives students a built in group of friends at Berry that they can rely on for support in their academic classes.

## DO I NEED TO TAKE PRIVATE LESSONS?

Although not required, many students take private lessons. There are a number of teachers who come to the school to give lessons, as well as many that teach in the Hoover area. We maintain a list of names and contact information of teachers who have served the Berry Middle and Spain Park Bands.

## Do I need a Musical Background?

No. You will learn the fundamental concepts to be successful in the Berry Band within the first few weeks of school and continue to learn more throughout your years in band.



# Band Advantages

1. Band teaches humanity. The study of a single piece of music could encompass language, social studies, history and the scientific/mathematical theories that shaped humanity.
2. Band teaches good sportsmanship. The performing arts provide an atmosphere as competitive as any sporting arena.
3. Band aids students in building self-esteem and a personal identity. Music can provide a means of expression that other academic classes cannot offer.
4. Band teaches children to appreciate diversity while building unity. Band students are exposed to other cultures; through music cultures are demystified. Appreciation and respect for others is the result.
5. Students will develop the potential to demonstrate abilities that can pay their way through college by way of scholarships—even if they are not majoring in music.

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