

March 23, 2015

## Dear Parents and Students:

As a 7<sup>th</sup> Grader, your child finally has the opportunity to do what so many successful students have done before them, be part of the band! Upon joining the Southridge Band, you will also become a member of the Southmoore Band family. Our program is among the finest in the state and has earned numerous prestigious honors and awards.

We know that for many of you, this will be your first exposure to music education and I wanted to take a brief minute to share some information with you. Included in with this letter is a sheet detailing more interesting information and frequently asked questions concerning band. We also invite you to explore our program even further at southmooreband.com (click the "Southridge Band" tab)

Music education is more than just playing an instrument; it is immersing your child in a culture of successful students and teachers who care about education. It challenges each child use the creative side of his brain while, at the same time, learning a foreign language...MUSIC.

All of the current data clearly states that students involved in music education academically out perform their non-musical counterparts. But, more importantly, studies are showing that music students are less likely to engage in risky behaviors such as drugs and alcohol.

Once the Southridge Junior High Band Director is hired we will schedule an instrument selection event. This is a time where you and your child can explore the different instruments and get help choosing the instrument that will give them the best chance of success. You will find information about these events in your current elementary school's take home packets.

Every destination starts with a decision to embark on a journey. Now is the time to start your child in music and Southridge Junior High is the place to do it. We can't promise that every child will be a musical prodigy, but we can promise they will learn, laugh, and grow along the way. Your student will have a network of family support that will continue with them past the doors of Southridge, through the High School years, and beyond.

Should you have any questions about band or your child's participation, please feel free to contact me using the information listed below. I look forward to welcoming you to the band family!

Sincerely,

Adam Mewhorter Director of Bands, Southmoore High School adammewhorter@mooreschools.com (405) 735-4971