

Important Dates

- Sign up for band and confirm instrument choices - Now through May 26, 2011. New students may continue to sign up during the summer - mail forms to Mark Garey, Freedom Middle School, 750 New Highway 96W, Franklin, 37064.

Instrument Orientations - attend at your school (multi-purpose room or music room) if possible:

- Moore Elementary: Tuesday, May 10, 4:30 - 7:00 p.m.
- Franklin Elementary: Thursday, May 12, 4:30 - 7:00 p.m.
- Johnson Elementary: Tuesday, May 17, 4:30 - 7:00 p.m.
- Liberty Elementary: Wednesday, May 18, 4:30 - 7:00 p.m.
- Freedom Intermediate: Tuesday, May 24, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
- Late Sign-up: Two additional orientations will be held at FIS, one on August 4, 4:30 - 7:00, and one on August 9, 6:00 - 8:00.
- Required information meeting for parents of all beginning band students - **August 15, 6:00 p.m., Freedom Intermediate School**
- Because school-hours instruction time is very limited and in large groups, students' very first lessons on how to assemble the instrument, hold it and play the first notes will take place in a like-instrument setting, after school, 2:30 - 4:00, one afternoon of the first two full weeks of school. Each instrument will be assigned one day each week. Plan now for August 16, 17, or 18, and August 23, 24, or 25.
- Students will purchase their method book from the director at school during the week of August 8. Pre-instrument instruction will take place during class the first two to three weeks of school. Students will not bring instruments until instructed to do so.
- School-owned instrument rental: immediately after the parent meeting on August 15 at approximately 7:30 p.m. School-owned instrument usage fee is \$100.00 per school year. A minimum of \$25.00 should be paid at this time. (Financial assistance is available for students on fee waiver.)

BAND

AT FREEDOM INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL 2011-2012

Rising fifth and sixth graders at Freedom Intermediate School have the opportunity to join the band program in the 2011-2012 school year. The Freedom Band program spans grades five through eight at Freedom Intermediate and Freedom Middle and provides a sequence of instruction from beginning through intermediate levels, preparing students to participate successfully in the award winning band programs in our Williamson County High Schools.

BAND DIRECTORS

Mark Garey
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FREEDOM BAND WEBSITE:

www.freedomschoolbands.org

WHO CAN JOIN BAND? All students, regardless of musical ability or background in music instruction, are invited to join the band. Students must commit to practice regularly outside of school, be present at any performance and activity, and are expected to conduct themselves with good self-control in the classroom. Band classes are held during school hours and student are accountable for daily participation and learning as in all other classes. Students must practice regularly on their own outside of school hours - parent support and involvement is key.

HOW DO I SIGN UP? Complete the sign-up form with this brochure and return it by the last day of school or while at the instrument orientation at your current school. New students will be accepted through the first day of school next fall, but spring registration is preferred to help the school plan for fall classes. Mail the form to: Mark Garey, Freedom Middle School, 750 New Highway 96 West, Franklin, 37064.

HOW DO I CHOOSE AN INSTRUMENT? When starting beginning students in band, one of the most important decisions is choice of instrument. A careful, thoughtful approach to choosing an instrument will set a student up for success for years to come. The band directors will personally help each student try each instrument and will guide them toward a choice with which they are most likely to succeed. Even if you think you already know what you want to play, the band directors must confirm and approve your choice. The band directors will bring a sample of all instruments to the elementary school instrument orientations. At the time you come, you may try all the instruments, and if you don't feel ready to make a decision after one session, you can come to another. You do not have to come for the full scheduled time, but it will probably take about an hour. Please come in time to finish by 7:00.

All parents are encouraged to visit the Freedom Band website for much more detailed information on how to join and all band activities: www.freedomschoolbands.org

WHERE DO I GET AN INSTRUMENT?

Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone: Students playing these instruments typically rent their instrument from one of the local music dealers. Purchasing your own new or used instrument is encouraged as well - the band directors will provide more information and advice. *A very limited number of these instruments are available to rent from the school with priority given to students who qualify for financial assistance - inquire early if needed. No child we be turned away.*

Bassoon, French Horn, Baritone, Tuba: These larger instruments are school-owned and rented with a usage fee of \$100.00 per school year. School-owned rental night is August 15. A parent must be present to sign-out these instruments in person. At least \$25.00 should be paid at this time. Students who receive fee waiver or free/reduced lunch at school may ask for financial aid for this fee. Students playing these instruments should purchase their own mouthpiece from one of the local music stores.

Percussion: Students will use school instruments during classes at school but **are required** to have a snare drum or pad and keyboard at home for practice. Each student will be required to purchase a stick and mallet kit. These will be available at Shuff's or Music and Arts Center.

The band directors will give all parents specific information about obtaining an instrument when their child comes for an instrument orientation session. All students will purchase their method book from the directors during the first week of school. (Typically less than \$10.00, percussion may be more.)

PARENTS WARNING: DO NOT PURCHASE AN INSTRUMENT ON THE INTERNET WITHOUT CONSULTING A BAND DIRECTOR FIRST!

Our two full-service local music retailers are:

**Shuff's Music (off the square) 118 3rd Avenue N.
Franklin, 790-6139**

and

**The Music and Arts Center
539 Cool Springs Blvd. (behind P.F. Changs)
Franklin, 771-3113**