



Westglades Middle School Band

In sixth grade, you have an exciting opportunity awaiting you: **the chance to learn to play a musical instrument.** You also will have a chance to be a member of the award-winning Westglades Middle School Band program and be around the best and the brightest students at the school. *Band is the largest group on campus, projected to have 20% of the student body participating in the program next year.*

Facts and Questions about Band

- **Why should I join band?** Westglades Bands encourage a disciplined, highly challenging, co-curricular environment. The band at Westglades Middle affords your child the opportunity for an experience like no other middle school band program in the area. After the success of middle school band, students move on to be a part of the state champion Eagle Regiment marching band and nationally awarded concert bands at Stoneman Douglas. After band at Stoneman Douglas, many students go on to receive music scholarships, even if they aren't majoring in music in college. In the end, band can result in your child being well-rounded enough to be successful in middle and high school, and can eventually result in a music scholarship.
- **How do I pick an instrument?** We will help you. We will have an Instrument Choice Night and Parent Meeting at Westglades where you can try different instruments. We will help you to find the instrument that will allow you to be the most successful musician! If you cannot make your assigned meeting you can absolutely show up to either of the other two meetings.
 - **March 11, 6:00-7:30: Heron Heights students and parents @ Westglades Middle**
 - **March 12, 6:00-7:30: Park Trails students and parents @ Westglades Middle**
 - **March 13, 6:00-7:30: Riverglades students and parents @ Westglades Middle**
- **You will have a chance to join the largest group on campus.**
- **Will there be after school rehearsals/events?** In the first year there are only 4 obligations after school.
- **Band is a regular daily elective class that will meet for the entire year.** You are able to sign up for two elective classes, so you do not have to miss out on anything in order to be in band.
- **How do I join?** When you fill out your course card for Westglades Middle, be sure to put Band as your first choice elective!
- **Do I need any experience?** NO! We teach you everything you need to know.
- **Do I need to buy an instrument?** Please wait until we try the instruments before obtaining an instrument. We'll go over the options at our instrument fitting and parent meeting!



- **What are the Brain Benefits of Band?** Research findings suggest, children who are in music programs see significant benefits in reading, math, and logical-sequential thinking. High school students who remain in a quality music program also **average higher scores on the SAT**. One report indicated 63 points higher on verbal and 44 points higher on math. **Music majors have the highest rate of acceptance to medical schools**. Annually, National Merit Scholars are involved in music programs more than any other single activity in school. *Other added benefits are a development of cooperation, self-expression, responsibility, discipline, patience, self-esteem, listening skills, and a potential life-long enjoyment of music.*
- **Can I be in other clubs?** Yes! Participation in other clubs and sports is highly encouraged.
- **What do I do if I am undecided? Sign up for band so you don't miss out!**
- **Questions?** Email Mr. Gordon or Ms. Todd with questions!

We're so excited about the opportunity to have you join our band family!! Please fill out our communication form so we can reach out to you with pertinent information! Scan the QR code below or visit westgladesbands.org and click on "5th Grade Communication Form."

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Fill out our communication form at:  OR find it at westgladesbands.org