

# *Elkins Pointe Middle School*

## *Band Handbook*

Todd Wilson, Director

Myah Dickerson, Assistant Director

[www.elkinspointeband.com](http://www.elkinspointeband.com)

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## **Greetings Band Parents!**

Please read for some important information....

This is one of many letters and emails you will receive from us over the year and this one might be a little longer than most. We will try to separate information into several categories so you can read the portion that applies to you and your child.

### **What are we doing in Band?**

At this point we are getting through the required paperwork and logistics to start the year off on a positive path. We are working on classroom procedures and reviewing expectations. Once we complete this we will start playing with our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders while working on critical skills with our 6<sup>th</sup> graders. We will also be demonstrating all of the instruments to our 6<sup>th</sup> graders in anticipation of our tryout night

### **General Information: All Please Read**

A few words about operations fees: The operations fee is \$70.00 that can be donated in the form of online payment via the band website ([www.elkinspointeband.com](http://www.elkinspointeband.com)), school OSP (online school payment) link, or check (checks made out to EPMS Band or Elkins Pointe Middle School). This goes to cover basic repairs, music purchasing, special instructors (tutors/assistant coaches) that come in throughout the year to assist the students in a small group setting, registration fees for events, and miscellaneous expenses that tend to creep up during the school year. If you have not sent in your operations donation, please do so as soon as possible. If there needs to be a payment plan or delay on the fee, please let me know discretely and I will work with you.

The form is attached to this packet. Please complete it and send it back as soon as possible. If you send a check payment with the form, please place the payment in an envelope or plastic bag with the student's full name written in permanent ink.

### **CASHLESS:**

EPMS is going cashless this year. If you use cash for most of your payments, you can purchase a prepaid/reloadable card and pay online.

## **6<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

There is a lot to talk about and we appreciate your patience as you read:

There are several forms at the back of this packet that they will need to fill out and return. They are the last couple of pages. If you know your student will need a school instrument then there is a form for that as well as an Operations form. This operations form has all of the important fees and items on it along with descriptions.

What is the Uniform for concerts: Black Pants, Black shoes, Black socks (not ankle), and the Black Band Polo Shirt which is on the Operations Form. Purchase inexpensive pants and shoes as you know the students will grow quickly.

The students will fill out their instrument interest form in class very soon. This form tells me their top 3-4 instrument choices so we can see which instrument fits best for them. We will have a try out event (see below in the letter) which will allow them try out all the instruments on one evening.

### **Concerts and Events:**

**PLEASE REFERENCE THE CALENDAR FOR ALL PERFORMANCE DATES**

**See the Band Website**

**[www.elkinsponteband.com](http://www.elkinsponteband.com)**

### **Instrument fittings and rentals:**

We have started demonstrating instruments to the students in class along with going over music reading skills. We will finish the demonstrations next week and the student will get a form in class to fill out indicating their interests for an instrument. This form will allow me to create a database of all the students top three instruments that they would like to play. We know that some of your students have been taking private lessons already on an instrument and would like to stay on that instrument due to years of experience. We will try to honor that since they have played before.

When is fitting day? It is after school in the cafeteria 8/21/2024 starting at 4:30pm until 8:00pm. We have professional musicians coming in to help me get to all the students within this window. Please do not arrive at the end and expect to get everything complete. You must be able to commit at least a few hours to this event as it takes time. Once these fittings are completed, we will tabulate the scores and have a letter ready by August 26th for each of you telling you exactly which instrument we feel is best for your child to have the most success.

Why can't my child pick their instrument without a fitting day? They can. We just have to make sure that the instrument is going to work for your child and the band's instrumentation. We want them to have the most success possible and not have a difficult time achieving the skills required to play the instrument at a high level.

**Instrumentation:** This is a very important topic. Instrumentation is the amount of each type of instrument within the 6<sup>th</sup> grade band. We must have a specific ratio of instruments in order for the band to sound like it should based upon physics. The best comparison I can make is that of a great sound system. You must have the correct balance of treble and bass in order for the music to sound good.

The ideal instrumentation for a group the size of this 6<sup>th</sup> grade class is:

Flute: 10, Oboe: 1-2, Bassoon: 1-2, Clarinet: 12-16, Saxophone: 4-6, Trumpet: 12-16,

French Horn: 6-8, Baritone: 8-10, Trombone: 8-12, Tuba: 8-10,

Percussion: (not just snare...must learn all the instruments) 8-10

**Instrument Rental:** Once we have given out the instrument assignment forms, we will also give out flyers from the many music stores around the area where you can rent or purchase an instrument. If you do not wish to go this route or have limited funds at this time you can rent an instrument from the school at a small fee. There is a form for this also. We can e-mail it home or give it to the students. Once the school instrument forms are returned to us (if you get a school instrument), we will assign an instrument from the inventory. We will do our best to get the best instrument possible, but we have a limited selection.

## START UP CLINIC!

## VERY IMPORTANT

This is one of the most important days for a 6<sup>th</sup> grader and thusly we need everyone in attendance if possible. It will be Saturday September 7<sup>th</sup> from 9:00AM – Noon. We understand that there might be a few conflicts with athletics activities. Please let me know if there are conflicts and we will try to work out a solution. Any time spent at the camp would not be wasted. If your child has to leave early please let us know. Please have your child there by 8:45AM outside door 19 on the C Hall Side of the school so we can get them in the proper room. We will be bringing in professional musicians to help the students with some of the beginning steps of playing the instruments. This will save us about two weeks of time. As you can see there are many instruments listed above and only one of me so in this instance many hands make light work.

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## **Symphonic Bands (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade):**

Uniform: We will use the same uniform for all bands as last year. We will have a dry fit Black Polo Shirt. Please make sure that your child has black pants and shoes to go along with the rest of the uniform. Please reference the calendar (on the Website) for the performance dates.

**PLEASE REFERENCE THE CALENDAR FOR ALL PERFORMANCE DATES**

**[www.elkinspointeband.com](http://www.elkinspointeband.com)**

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## **High School Visitation Night!**

### **8<sup>th</sup> graders only**

Each High School has a visitation night for band that they invite the 8<sup>th</sup> graders zoned for their school to attend. Milton is September 20<sup>th</sup> and Roswell is September 20<sup>th</sup> as well. One of the band directors will be at each event with the students. This is a Friday night football game where the students get to play with the Marching bands from their high school in the stands during the game. It is a blast.

Once information is available from the High Schools, I will send it out.

We are looking forward to a great year. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Musically Yours,

Todd Wilson, Band Director

Myah Dickerson, Assistant Director

# *Elkins Pointe Middle School Band*

## *Classroom Expectations*

*Todd Wilson & Myah Dickerson*

### **EPMS Band Students in the Classroom:**

- Listen to the Director(s)
- Have Voice Level at 0 during instruction
- Raises hand and patiently waits to be acknowledged
- Is Kind and Courteous to their fellow band members
- Does not blurt out and talk out of turn
- Takes care of the room and does not leave a mess
- Cleans up at the end of class

### **EPMS Band Students in the Storage Room:**

- Gets what they need and exits quickly
- Takes care of the room and does not leave a mess
- Cleans up at the end of class
- Is Kind and Courteous to their fellow band members

### **EPMS Band Students at ANY event or concert:**

- Listen to the Director(s)
- Have Voice Level at 0 during other groups performances
- Raises hand and patiently & waits to be acknowledged
- Is Kind and Courteous to their fellow band members
- Does not get out of their seat without permission



# ELKINS POINTE MIDDLE SCHOOL

## BAND SYLLABUS

**Teachers:** Todd Wilson & Myah Dickerson

**Course:** Band

**Date:** 2024-2025 School Year

**Grade Level:** 6, 7, 8

**Email:** [wilsonte@fultonschools.org](mailto:wilsonte@fultonschools.org)

**Website:** [www.elkinspointeband.com](http://www.elkinspointeband.com)

**Textbooks and Music:** All Resources possible will be provided through paper copies.

- Students will have a Band Binder (Fee Cover this) that they must maintain and keep in great condition. Failure to do so will result in the student owing a fee to replace the binder.
- Students will also have a band book (Fees Cover this) that will be used in class also with sheet music (Fees cover this)

### **Required Materials (ALL students):**

- Personal mouthpiece, reeds, or sticks dependent upon your student's instrument.
- Instrument maintenance materials for specific instruments based upon what the student plays. (see supplies handout)
- *Students needing assistance will have the opportunity to request assistance through scholarships for instruments etc.*

### **Course Description:**

- Band a course where the student can learn about many different facets of music and their instrument. Students will progress on an instrument throughout their band experience.
- In addition to the traditional literature/performance-based course instruction students will learn many of the life long skills such as team work, problem solving, and time management skills.
- Band is a **YEAR LONG** course and may not be dropped at any point.

### **Course Outline/Objectives:**

- Students will play a wide variety of music, including numerous musical periods, styles, and composers.
- Each week will cover the following objectives: tone quality, intonation, articulation, style, various rhythms, rhythmic precision, dynamics, balance & blend, and phrasing.
- Beginning band students will start with basic musical concepts/theory and then progress to instruments within the first month of school (see the "Welcome to Band Letter" for more information).

### **Instrument Rental Fee & Class Operations Fee:**

(see the "Welcome to Band/Operations Letter" for more Information)

-All fees can be paid via check (Made out to EPMS Bands), Cash in an envelope with the students full name and class period, or online through the OSP system found on the school website as well as the band website under the payments option.

### **Face to Face Behavior Policy:**

- 1st Offense- Warning from teacher
- 2nd Offense- Parent Contact by teacher
- 3rd Offense- Detention and referral to team for discussion
- 4th Offense- Office Referral

**Note:** Steps 1-3 may be skipped if the offense warrants immediate action by administration.

### **Grades (grades per 9 weeks reporting period will be determined as follows):**

- **50% Major Assessments** (Concerts, Written and playing tests)
- **40% Minor Assessments** (Quizzes, Progress Checks on music and skills)
- **10% Practice** (daily participation)

### **Opportunities (Calendar):**

- Students are given opportunities to perform at school concerts, assemblies, district solo and ensemble event, and district large group festival. Other additional opportunities are also available and will be communicated as they arise.
- Please reference the band Calendar on the Website ([www.elkinspointeband.com](http://www.elkinspointeband.com)) to ensure that there are no missed days or confusion.

### **Practice:**

- Students are expected to practice at home; practice is necessary for improvement on their instrument and in completing class assignments/performances to the best of their abilities.

### **Provision for Improving Grades:**

- Students who have an 75% or below and/or a failing cumulative grade may ask for opportunities to improve their grade. In order to do so, all work required to date must be completed and the student must demonstrate a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements including attendance.
  - Students must complete any make up work prior to the next unit exam.
- Students may petition to make up any grade to a Mastery Level within a timely manner of the first attempt the assessment.

### **Scheduled Help Sessions:**



- Students will be able to get help before after school on certain days.

### **Grade Recovery for Major Assignments:**

- In accordance with grading guidelines, a student who earns less than 75% on a major assessment or project will be permitted a reasonable opportunity to retest.
- To be eligible to retest, students must complete a remediation assignment, as agreed upon with the teacher.
  - This may include, but not limited to, attending a help session or completing a review assignment.
  - The retest must occur before the next Major Assessment.
- **End of semester grading will reflect the following:**
  - o A – 90 and Above
  - o B – 80-89
  - o C – 70-79
  - o F – 69 and below **OR** an Incomplete not resolved by the end of the school year or summer
  - o I – Incomplete (Less than 80% of summative assignments were completed)
    - o NG – No grade
    - NHI- not handed in will convert to a “0” in the gradebook if not handed in.

### **Late Work Policy**

- If work is turned in late there will be a 5% per day deduction in the overall grade up to 15%.

### **Absences:**

- If your child is going to be absent, please email me as soon as possible so they will not fall behind.
- Students will receive an equal number of days for absence to make up work

### **Limited AI Use with Teacher Permission:**

- In this course, the use of generative AI tools is permitted only with explicit teacher approval for specific assignments. AI can serve as an aid to enhance understanding and interaction with course content, within the boundaries of academic integrity. If AI tools are used, all AI-generated content must be accurately cited, and students are responsible for the integrity and correctness of their submissions, including any content derived from AI tools. It is essential to critically evaluate AI outputs to ensure they meet academic standards. Unauthorized use of generative AI, without proper citation, is considered a violation of the Fulton County Schools Code of Conduct and may result in disciplinary action.

Please feel free to email me at any time and I will respond as quickly as possible.

I am looking forward to a great year!

Yay Band!

Date	Event	Place	Time	Grade Level	Required
8.21.24	Instrument Fitting Clinic	EPMS Caf�	4:30-8:30pm	6th	Y
9.7.24	6th Grade Start Up Clinic	EPMS	9AM-Noon	6th	Y
9.20.24	8th Grade Night @ MHS	Milton HS	4:30 - 10:00	8th	Y
9.20.24	8th Grade Night @ RHS	Roswell HS	4:30 - 10:00	8th	Y
9.30.24	Fundraiser			All	Y
10.24.24	Cluster Concert 8th Grade	Milton HS	6:00 PM	8th	Y
11.14.24	6th & 7th Grade Concert	EPMS	6:30 PM	6th and 7th	Y
12.7.24	All State Round 1 Auditions	EPMS	All Day	N/A	
12.17.24	Holiday Concert 7th and 8th Grade	EPMS	6:30 PM	7th and 8th	Y
1.11.24	All State Band Final Auditions	Union Grove MS	TBA	N/A	
2.7.25	District Honor Band	Northview HS	TBA	N/A	
2.8.25	District Honor Band	Northview HS	TBA	N/A	
2.25.25	Pre-LGPE Concert & 6th Grade	EPMS	6:30 PM	All	Y
2.27.25-3.1.25	All State Band Event	Athens, GA	All Day	N/A	
3.11.25-3.13.25	LGPE Window	Chattahoochee HS	TBA	7th and 8th	Y
3.13.25-3.16.25	Orlando Trip	Orlando FL	TBA	7th and 8th	
4.26.25	Solo & Ensemble	Taylor Rd MS	TBA	N/A	
5.3.25	Six Flags Trip	Six Flags over GA	All Day	All	
5.10.25	6th Grade Honor Band	Chattahoochee HS	8:00am-3:00pm	N/A	
5.13.25	Spring Concert All Bands	EPMS	6:30 PM	All	Y

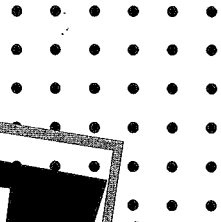
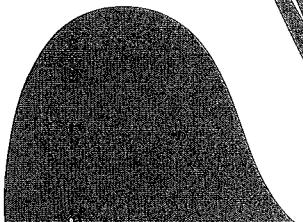
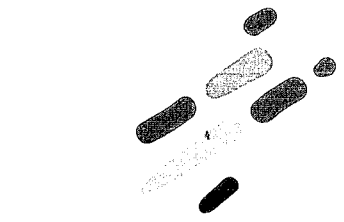
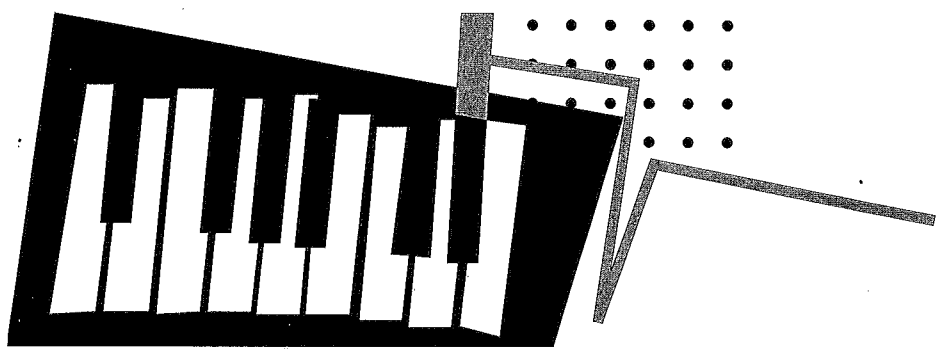
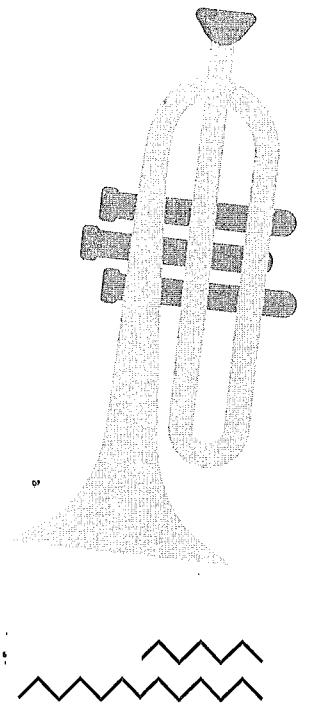
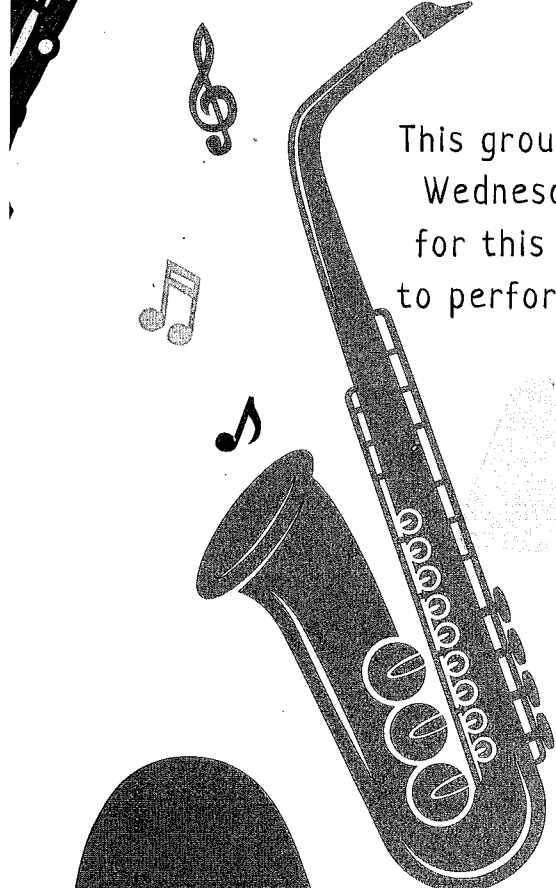
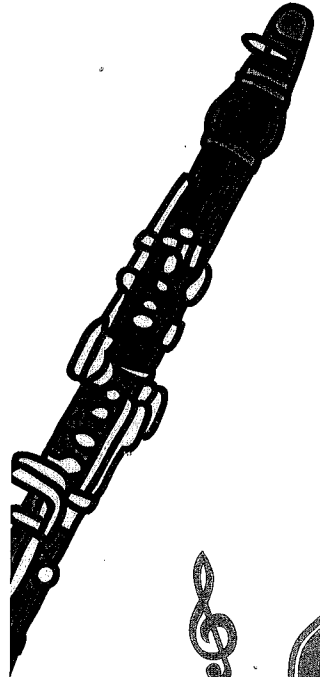
ELKINS POINTE

# JAZZ BAND

The Elkins Pointe Band is proud to announce the start of the Elkins Pointe Jazz Band. This group learn the history of jazz and how to play jazz music. This group is for 7th and 8th graders only, and will perform at concerts and recruiting events.

This group will meet twice a week on Monday and Wednesday from 7:45am-8:30am. If you sign up for this group attendance is required. In order to perform with this group at concerts, students MUST attend every rehearsal.

First rehearsal is:  
August 19, 2024 @ 7:45am  
in the band room



# Elkins Pointe Middle School Band

Todd Wilson, *Director of Bands*  
Operations Fee/ Uniforms/Clinics

Myah Dickerson, Assistant Director of Bands

August 2024

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Elkins Pointe Middle School Band program. The purpose of this letter is to outline various band needs/operations within our program that have expenses associated with them. Below you will find a description of each item. These items will cover the majority of the fees for the school year, so money is not being collected at each event unless it is beyond the descriptions below. Please see the descriptions below and return the second page of this document with payment to Mr. Wilson or Ms. Dickerson.

All items listed can be paid with a prepaid card, check, money order, or online via OSP (Online School Payments). One check can be written for ALL items.

**Please make checks payable to Elkins Pointe Middle School. Please put your student's name on the memo line.**

**Due: No later than \_\_\_\_\_**

Thank you for your support!

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**ALL Students in Grades 6, 7, and 8 will need one of each item/category listed below.**

## **BAND OPERATIONS FEE:**

**\*6<sup>th</sup> /7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup> Grades**

We have a very active and successful band program and have been fortunate to provide our students with opportunities and experiences that extend beyond their daily classroom instruction. As you know, we do not fundraise at EPMS to generate extra funds for general classroom activities that are an extension of our daily classroom activities. In an effort to continue these and to provide further opportunities and instruction to the students we have an **operations fee of \$70.00**. This will not nearly cover all the needs of the program, but it will greatly help. This one fee is in lieu of collecting fees throughout the year for various activities.

**This fee will pay for:**

- **Clinicians and Specialty Instructors for the 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Gr. LGPE Band Clinicians, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade fitting night, & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Start-Up Clinic** - One element of a comprehensive music education experience is giving the students opportunities to work with renowned conductors, musicians, and performers. This contribution will help to offset the cost of bringing in such esteemed musicians.
- **Instrument specialists** – Small group instruction periodically throughout the year, start-up days, and instrument testing.
- **LGPE Fees** – Entry fees for group participation in LGPE. Fees can range from \$170 - \$195 per ensemble.
- **Music, Method Resources, and Specialty Ensemble Music (individuals and small groups)**-The cost of one band piece is between \$50 and \$100 (Some advanced pieces are even more expensive). This contribution will allow us to continue building a music library that meets the educational needs of the students.
- **Student Band Binders**

## **UNIFORMS:**

**\*6<sup>th</sup> /7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup> Grades**

Our first concert will be right around the corner before we know it. As well as entertaining our audience and playing to the best of our ability, we also want to look great. Our performance attire will help us to do just that.

### **Formal POLO Shirt is now for ALL Grades**

The formal polo shirt uniform is both classic and formal which includes black pants and a black polo shirt.

**The entire polo shirt uniform consists of a black polo shirt with an embroidered logo, black pants, black socks, black belt, and black shoes. The band shirt should be able to be tucked in for performances.**

**The band polo shirt costs \$20.00 and must be purchased through the school.**

Uniform pants may be purchased through a store of your choice. They should be black in color. Pants should not have excessive pockets, designs, or be cropped in length. Pants should be dress pants or slacks. Black jeans, leggings, and/or skirts are not appropriate for the formal uniform. Shoes may include dress shoes, boots, or sandals. Tennis shoes and flip flops are not appropriate.

#### NEW ITEMS:

**Informal Music Department T-shirt** can be used on trips and other musical events when we do not wish to use the Formal Polo Shirt.

The T-shirt is used for our Spring Trip for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade and Six Flags for our 6<sup>th</sup> Grade students. This is also a great way to show school and music department spirit throughout the year. The shirt cost is \$10.00. If you already have a shirt from a previous year or a sibling, then you are not required to purchase another.

**Rental of School Owned Mouthpieces.** This year we are unfortunately not able to provide as many free mouthpieces as students have mistreated them in the past and either broken or lost them. The typical cost for a mouthpiece can range from 50-100 dollars if you buy them from a store. We cannot afford to replace every broken mouthpiece therefore we must charge a small fee this year to ensure that we do not lose any more inventory. IF your student loses or breaks a mouthpiece, they are responsible for the FULL replacement cost.

The Rental Cost for School Mouthpiece is \$10.00.

# Percussion Use Only

## Percussion mallet package

This package is for percussion students only. This package will equip your student with all the materials that they will need for class. In past years we have had many broken/lost mallets. This package will ensure that your student will always have the materials they will need every day, and they will not share materials with anyone. This is like having your own laptop or binder for a class. Other instruments are also obligated to purchase materials on their own (such as reeds (which are purchased multiple times a year), and mouthpieces). We have created this package for percussion students to make it easier on you since there are multiple items needed. We also offer scholarships to those who need it. If a scholarship is needed, please notify us by email.

A list of the items in the package are found below. Once purchased, these are your students to keep.  
What it includes:

- Stick bag
- IP 240 percussion yarn mallets
- Vic Firth SD1 snare sticks
- Yamaha medium/hard xylophone mallets

**Percussion Package price \$75.**

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# Order Form:

Uniforms / Operations/ Book

\*EACH SECTION SHOULD BE COMPLETED -MAKE ONE SELECTION FOR EACH SET OF STATEMENTS

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE LEVEL: 6 7 8  
 First and Last CLASS PERIOD: 1 2 3 5 6 7  
 Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grades Only)

I have read the course syllabus for EPMS and fully understand the guidelines and expectations of being a member of the 2024-2025 Elkins Pointe Middle School Band Program. I understand that my commitment is for the entire year August 2024-May 2025, and I commit to participating in all required events, rehearsals, and concerts.

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**BAND OPERATIONS FEE:** \$70/ea.

Needed for: 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 8<sup>th</sup> Grades –  
 Clinicians / Instructors / Clinic Fees (Start-Up / LGPE) / LGPE Entry Fees/ Music

- I have included the \$70.00 operations fee. (Please attach in an envelope or Ziploc bag)
- I have paid the \$70.00 operations fee online instead of sending in check. (Link is on Band & School Website.)
- I have included an additional EPMS Band donation in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

**School Mouthpiece Fee:** \$10/ea.

- I have included the \$10.00 mouthpiece fee. (Please attach in an envelope or Ziploc bag)
- I have paid the \$10.00 mouthpiece fee online instead of sending in check (Link is on the Band & School Website)

**Percussion Students Only:** \$75ea.

- I have included the \$75.00 percussion stick bag kit fee. (Please attach in an envelope or Ziploc bag)
- I have paid the \$75.00 percussion stick bag kit fee online instead of sending in check (Link is on the Band & School Website)

**UNIFORMS:**  
**Black Band Polo Shirt** *(Same Polo as Last Year if you already have one)* \$20/ea.

Select all that apply. Please circle your choice below or indicate that you do not need a shirt.

**Note:** \*\*\*Adult shirt sizes run slightly on the larger side.

Please indicate size(s) and quantity.

Youth L	Adult S	Adult M	Adult L	Adult XL	Adult XXL	Adult XXXL

**Music Department T-shirt** *(Same Shirt as Last Year if you already have one)* \$10/ea.

Select all that apply. Please circle your choice below or indicate that you do not need a shirt.

**Note:** \*\*\*Adult shirt sizes run slightly on the larger side.

Please indicate size(s) and quantity.

Youth L	Adult S	Adult M	Adult L	Adult XL	Adult XXL	Adult XXXL



**Payment Method:**    Cash                      Check # \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount Total:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Due: No later than Friday, August 23, 2024**

**Date Received:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Fulton County Schools Music Department

## Fulton County Schools Guarantee Covering Use of Music Instrument During the School Year

We, the undersigned, agree to the following conditions set forth by the Fulton County Music Department regarding the use of a school instrument during the regular school year:

1. Payment of a \$100.00 contribution for the use of a school instrument which is \$50.00 per semester. Money is to be turned into the music director. This is much less expensive than a local store.
2. Being responsible for the instrument and taking necessary action to prevent the instrument from getting damaged or stolen.

Name of student (Please print)

First \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

---

School use only

Type of instrument \_\_\_\_\_

Serial Number \_\_\_\_\_