



Benjamin Loyer  
Director of Bands – Bethel-Tate Middle School  
benjamin.loyer@betheltate.org

Parents,

Thank you for your interest in the band and choir programs. My name is Benjamin Loyer and I am the middle school band and choir director for the Bethel-Tate Local School District. I am very excited to share my musical knowledge with your students this school year. Below you will find more information about the 6th grade band and choir programs.

Band and Choir will meet during a divided intervention time every day at the middle school this year. This means that students who are not required to take intervention due to grades can participate in either band or choir. The summative assessments of these music classes will consist of 3 concerts this year, which I am in the process of scheduling.

Band:

6th grade band students will have the option of choosing; Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, French Horn, and Trombone. This list of instruments will expand in 7th and 8th grade to include Baritone, Tuba, Saxophone, and Oboe, which is why I strongly encourage renting your instruments from our partner instrument supplier Buddy Rogers. A rental from Buddy Rogers not only gives you an instrument in the specifications that will make your child most successful, but it also includes instrument repair costs which can save you from costly repair bills to just have a functional instrument. You can view their prices and fees by going to the website here,

<https://www.buddyrogers.com/school-programs/rent-to-own/>

Many instruments that come from a pawn shop or that have been sitting in the garage for several years likely need several hundred dollars in repair to make them work, and are often of a quality that makes playing difficult for the student.

**There will be a required instrumental meeting for students new to band on Monday August 28th at 7:00pm in the Middle School Band Room.** Here, you will get a chance to speak face to face with me to walk you through the music programs that will be offered this year at the middle school. Also, a Buddy Rogers representative be here so that you can begin the renting of your instruments, or even to purchase one.

Choir:

Students in choir will be voice tested at the beginning of each semester, but will be supplied a folder and music for class. It is expected of the student to come to each rehearsal prepared and ready to learn to the best of their ability. This means that choir is **not** a class to complete outside class work, chat with friends, and especially be on their cell phone. In a class where students get the chance to expand their musical tastes and abilities, there is no time to waste.

In conclusion, at BTMS, we want to teach the students to “Follow The Tiger Way.” This means that in music class, students will be encouraged to create habits of excellence that can transfer into all that they will do in other classes and when they leave the Bethel-Tate Local School District.