



BE A PART OF SOMETHING SPECIAL!

WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT?

The *Boswell Band of Gold* is establishing itself as one of the most successful band programs in both the state and the nation. Students in the band program are offered instruction and an opportunity to perform in a wide variety of instrumental musical groups – Marching Band, Concert Bands, Jazz Bands, Percussion Ensembles, Winter Guard, and Musicals. In addition to the large group experiences, students are also able to compete individually through All-Region/All-Area/All-State Band auditions, Solo and Ensemble Contests, and Winter Guard Solo Contests.

The Boswell Band program has experienced great success in the various contests listed above. A few of the recent accomplishments of band students include:

- State Marching Band Semi-Finalist
- Best 4A Concert Band in Region
- Choice Music Festivals National Concert Band Finalist
- 60 All-Region Player Selection
- 10 All-Area Player Selections
- 1 All-State Player Selection

Not only are band students learning to perform to a high degree on their instrument, they are also acquiring the valuable skills of: teamwork, initiative, self-discipline, individual responsibility, and social skills. These life-long skills prove to be effective and valuable in any career, sport, or other activity.

We hope that this brochure answers many of your questions about signing up, scheduling, time requirements, and many other frequently asked questions. If you still have questions, please contact your current band director or any of the band staff listed below. We will be more than happy to answer your questions as quickly as possible.



David Kirkley
Director of Bands
Symphonic Band
dkirkley@ems-isd.net
817-237-3314 Ext. 8705



Dimas Delgado
Band of Gold
Concert Band
ddelgado@ems-isd.net
817-237-3314 Ext. 8706



Grant Hackethorn
Director of Percussion
Music Theory
ghackethorn@ems-isd.net
817-237-3314 Ext. 8703

<http://go.to/boswellband>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW MUCH MONEY WILL BEING IN THE BAND PROGRAM COST?

NOT MUCH! Sure band costs *some* money, but the cost of participating in the Boswell Band is much lower than most Dallas-Fort Worth high school bands. The band also conducts several fundraisers throughout the year, both for the individual student to help cover the financial obligations of participation, and to help fund band activities throughout the year. These fundraising programs allow band students to maximize financial aid throughout the school year. Many of our fundraisers also include great prize incentives for our students – You might even walk away with \$100 in your pocket! The Boswell Band Booster club also provides financial assistance, primarily in the area of private lesson scholarships.

WILL BEING IN BAND AFFECT MY GRADES?

YES! But only in a **POSITIVE** way. Scientific research consistently shows that participation in band results in higher academic grades during both semesters. Additionally, students enrolled in music classes score an average of **100** points higher on standardized tests, such as the SAT, than students without music in their schedule. According to college admissions officials, 70% of the nation's major universities report participation in a musical organization is a higher consideration for admission than standardized test scores. The band staff also places an emphasis on the academic performance of the students through academic monitoring and encouragement of tutorials when students are having difficulty in a course. Students in the band frequently take it upon themselves to develop study groups and help one another in their academic pursuits.

HOW MUCH TIME WILL BEING IN BAND TAKE?

Each student's time commitment is determined by the number and type of ensembles he or she is enrolled in. Our largest time commitment comes at the beginning of the year during the competitive marching season. All of our students are enrolled in the Band of Gold. During this season, the band not only rehearses during the student's class period, but also adds rehearsal time 2 evenings and 2 mornings each week. The band also participates in football games, primarily on Friday evenings, and marching contests, primarily on Saturdays. While this may seem like a lot of time initially, the band rehearses no more than 8 hours outside of school per week. Band students learn quickly how to maximize their time, and it is shown by the fact that students generally have higher academic grades during the fall marching season than the spring.

In the spring, all of our students perform with ability-based concert bands during the school day. These ensembles have on average one 1-hour sectional rehearsal per week outside of the school day. We do ask that students try to maintain a regular "homework" practice routine of 30 minutes per day, similar to the routine the students have already developed at their middle school band program. Students use this practice time to prepare band music, all-region etudes, solos, and small ensembles. We also offer a comprehensive private lesson program for those wishing to receive individualized instruction and perform at a higher level. Private lessons are not mandatory, but are highly encouraged.

WILL I HAVE TO GIVE UP ANY OTHER ACTIVITIES FOR BAND?

NO! Not only is participation in other activities possible – it is highly encouraged! When looking at other activities, please remember a commitment to the band program and practice time is essential for the band's success. Many of the life skills students learn in band, such as teamwork, accountability, et cetera, will be a great asset toward their participation in other organizations. The Band of Gold *prides* itself on having many students involved in *multiple* activities across campus. In fact, many famous athletes, actors, and even presidents were active in high school band. Here is a just a sample of some names you might recognize:



HALLE BERRY
Actress
Flute



JIMMY KIMMEL
Late Night TV Host
Clarinet



BILL CLINTON
Former President
Saxophone



SAMUEL L. JACKSON
Actor
French Horn



TONY STEWART
NASCAR Driver
Trombone



NEIL ARMSTRONG
First Man On Moon
Baritone Horn

DID YOU KNOW...

...66% of college **music** majors
who applied for medical school were accepted,
while only 44% of **biochemistry** majors were accepted?

HERE'S HOW IT ALL WORKS...

When you register for high school classes, please sign up for Band I. All students who sign up for band must complete one full year of band. If you are interested in Jazz Band or Music Theory, please contact one of the high school directors, preferably prior to registration day. Students wishing to perform in other ensembles listed on the first page, including Color Guard or Winter Guard, should enroll in the year-long band course.

After registration is complete, we will post audition information to our website (<http://go.to/boswellband>). These auditions are used to determine both your initial marching placement and which concert band you will be enrolled in. This is not an event to worry about. The audition usually consists of a few scales along with a short, prepared musical etude to show your performance skill level. Percussionists and Color Guard members will have a series of workshops during the latter half of the spring semester and will audition towards the end of the semester to determine placements for the marching band. Students in percussion and guard may have an additional time commitment during the summer months – this will be discussed during the workshops in preparation for the audition.

At the beginning of summer, we will have a few days for our rookie marchers to learn some of the fundamentals of marching, and you will also meet and have a chance to work one on one with the student leader for your instrument. These few workshop days in June prepare you for August when the entire Band of Gold returns, and by then you will have a full grasp of what goes on in the marching band.

We hope you are excited about becoming a member of the Boswell High School Band of Gold! The band program is actually quite similar to an athletic team, in that each and every member of the team plays an important role in the success of the group. An anticipated 190 students will be involved in the 2009 – 2010 Band of Gold and we look forward to having YOU be a part of the experience!

