

Dear Eubanks 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents:

We would like to invite you to the Dawson MS Annual Band Recruitment Concert on Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> in the DMS Cafeteria. The concert will start promptly at 7 PM and will feature the award-winning DMS Wind Ensemble and Jazz Band. This concert will give you and your child a chance to hear some great and enjoyable music, as well as learn about the band program at CISD. The concert should last around 40 minutes and then we will give you a chance to sign up for “tryout” times for either Feb.27 or March1 (Percussion only) and March 3 and 6 (wind instruments only, instruments that use air to produce a sound!) We will also offer another day for wind instruments, if necessary.

I put “tryout” in quotes as this is not actually an audition or tryout. We will try your child out on numerous instruments to find the best fit. We would like for your child to come to the tryouts with about three instruments in mind that they would like to try. They can get a good idea of what they would like by making sure they attend the concert on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January.

We would love for you and your child to have an “open-mind” going into the tryouts. Many, many students come to us with thoughts of playing a particular instrument and select a completely different instrument. We also ask that just because you have your great aunt’s old clarinet, your child may or may not play clarinet. We go through a very thorough process to find the correct instrument. If you look at our past history, you will see we have been very successful in doing this.

Please understand that your child’s sixth grade year is the only time they can start in the band program. There are no beginner band classes in seventh grade. In sixth grade, they will be placed in a like instrument classes to learn that particular instrument. This is where the fundamentals are taught. So...if your child has even a slight interest in playing an instrument, they need to tryout.

We look forward to seeing you on January 24<sup>th</sup> in the DMS cafeteria. If you have any questions regarding the concert, tryouts or the band program in general, please do not hesitate to email us at:

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Thanks!

The Band Gang