



## Green Acres Middle School Band Notice 2016-2017

Director - Ms. Karen L. Garrett

Websites MustangsMusic.com / MusicTechTeacher.com



Green Acres Middle School will offer the opportunity for your child to play in the Band. The director, Ms. Garrett, has taught in the Birmingham City Schools System for 24 years.

Our band website, **www.MustangsMusic.com**, will have information posted about the band program, along with information about stores where instruments may be rented or purchased. Early August is the time to rent or purchase an instrument from a local music store or online. We would like for students to have an instrument by the middle of August so we may progress in learning how to play music.

We played for more than 20 events last year and we will continue to this year as we build the band program. We plan to play for some of the football games, the All City Christmas Festival, Christmas Program, Black History Program, Awards Programs, a Spring Concert, Solo and Ensemble Festival, All City Band Evaluation and concerts at other schools in the area.

There will be a band fee of **\$30**, cash only. This is a separate fee than the school fees for lockers and shirts. The band fee will cover use of a band method book (Tradition of Excellence Book 1 / Kjos), basic cleaning supplies, a cummerbund and bowtie and purchase of a band t-shirt. Transportation and meal costs are separate and will be assessed as needed during the year for the students that attend events. Other band instrument accessories, such as woodwind reeds and drum sticks are **not** included in the band fee and may be purchased as needed.

**All** middle school bands in Birmingham Schools are **required** to have a concert uniform consisting of a white dress shirt with a collar (for the bowtie), black dress pants and black dress shoes (no tennis shoes). We will provide the cummerbunds and bowties. Parents must purchase a shirt, pants and shoes. Students who are in the pep band will wear the Mustangs Band t-shirt, which is **required** for our pep band performances.

A list of music stores is posted below. We are **not** able to purchase or sell instruments to students through the school. We have a limited number of instruments available for a few students to use, but it is important that students try to rent or purchase their own instrument (except for baritones, tubas).

**Art's Music** - <http://www.salesartsmusicshop.com>

Phone: 205-995-8376 Location: 4647-O Highway 280 Birmingham, AL 35242

**Bailey Brothers** - <http://www.baileybrothers.com>

Phone: 205-714-7827 Location: 1006 20th Street South, Birmingham, Alabama 35205

**Gadsden Music** - <http://www.gadsdenmusic.com>

Phone 205-982-3004 Location: 4524 Southlake Parkway, PO Box 132, Hoover, AL 35244 (Southlake Village)

**Guitar Center** - <http://www.guitarcenter.com> Phone: 205-824-6454 Location: 1694 Montgomery Hwy, Hoover, AL 35216

**Online Cascio / Interstate Music** - <http://www.interstatemusic.com>

**Online Woodwind and Brasswind** - <http://www.wwbw.com>

The most common instruments used in middle school are the flute, oboe, clarinet, bass clarinet, alto and tenor saxophones, baritone saxophone, trumpet, French Horn, trombone, baritone, tuba and percussion (concert snare drum and bell kit).

The sales staff at the music stores can help students with the proper selection of an instrument for your child. Students need to try out the instrument to make sure they have the proper embouchure (position of the mouth on the instrument) to play that instrument. Most students will play woodwind and brass instruments. Only a limited number of students should play percussion instruments for the balance of the band sound. Ms. Garrett may be available to try-out some students for band as school starts on August 8<sup>th</sup>.

If you would like for your child to participate in the band, please sign and return the forms. If you have Internet access, you can send an email to Ms. Garrett with questions or comments about the Band at [kgarrett@musictechteacher.com](mailto:kgarrett@musictechteacher.com). **Please include your child's name, grade, and your name in the email.** You may also call the school and leave a message in the office at 205-231-1370 (first week of August). Thank you very much!



**Green Acres Band Supplies / Examples of Supplies for Each Band Instrument:**

- Tradition of Excellence Band Method Book 1. The book includes a Video/Audio DVD and access to the Interactive Practice Studio software for the book <http://kjos.com/>
- Students should have a proper place to practice their music at home each day. It is recommended that they also have a folding music stand similar to the one pictured above.
- Band Uniform – White shirt with collar, black dress pants and black dress shoes, pictured above. The school will have the bowties and cummerbunds.

<b>Flute</b>	<b>Clarinet / Alto / Bass Clarinet</b>	<b>Alto / Tenor Saxophone</b>
<p>Music Book and Folder. Care Kits might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swab</li> <li>• Cleaning rod</li> <li>• Pad saver / swab</li> <li>• Silver polish cloth</li> <li>• Pad cleaning paper</li> <li>• Cleaning gauze</li> <li>• Key oil</li> </ul>	<p>Music Book and Folder, REEDS Size 3 or higher Care Kits might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swab</li> <li>• Cleaning Cloth</li> <li>• Reed Guard</li> <li>• Duster Brush</li> <li>• Thumb Cushion</li> <li>• Woodwind Mouthpiece Brush</li> <li>• Cork Grease</li> <li>• Pad savers for storage</li> </ul>	<p>Music Book and Folder. REEDS Size 3 or higher Care Kits might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Polish cloth for Lacquer Finishes</li> <li>• Sax Bore Swab</li> <li>• Reed Guard</li> <li>• Duster Brush</li> <li>• Woodwind Mouthpiece brush</li> <li>• Sax Neck Cleaner</li> <li>• Cork Grease</li> <li>• Instructions</li> </ul>
<b>Trumpet</b>	<b>French Horn</b>	<b>Trombone</b>
<p>Music Book and Folder. Care Kits might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Valve oil</li> <li>• Tuning slide grease</li> <li>• Mouthpiece brush</li> <li>• Bore brush</li> <li>• Valve casing brush</li> <li>• Polishing cloth</li> <li>• Instructions</li> </ul>	<p>Music Book and Folder. Care Kits might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cleaning cloth</li> <li>• Bore brush</li> <li>• Rotary valve oil</li> <li>• Tuning slide grease</li> <li>• Mouthpiece brush</li> <li>• Rotor string / Valve Cord</li> <li>• Instructions</li> </ul>	<p>Music Book and Folder. Care Kits and Accessories might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Valve oil</li> <li>• Tuning slide grease</li> <li>• Tuning slide cream</li> <li>• Mouthpiece brush</li> <li>• Cleaning snake</li> <li>• Polishing cloth</li> <li>• Slide bow protector</li> <li>• Trombone stand</li> </ul>
<b>Baritone and Tuba</b>	<b>Percussion – Mallets / Bells</b>	<b>Percussion - Concert Snare</b>
<p>Music Book and Folder. Care Kits might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuning slide grease</li> <li>• Tuning slide cream</li> <li>• Mouthpiece brush</li> <li>• Cleaning snake</li> <li>• Polishing cloth</li> <li>• Valve Oil</li> </ul>	<p>Music Book and Folder.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mallets</li> <li>• Bell Stand</li> <li>• Cleaning Cloth</li> </ul> <p>A bell kit usually comes with supplies in it.</p>	<p>Music Book and Folder.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sticks Sizes 2B or 5B</li> <li>• DRUM PAD</li> <li>• Drum stand</li> <li>• Cleaning Cloth</li> </ul> <p>A drum kit usually comes with supplies in it. <b>NO MARCHING DRUMS, CONCERT SNARE DRUMS AND BELLS ONLY!</b></p>

## Green Acres Middle School Band 2016-2017

Please **PRINT** and return this form to Ms. Garrett if you are interested in your child taking Band:

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address / Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email \_\_\_\_\_

Grade 6 / 7 / 8 \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument (preferences) \_\_\_\_\_

**Woodwind** - Flute / Oboe / Clarinet / Bass Clarinet / Alto Saxophone / Tenor Saxophone

**Brass** - Trumpet / French Horn / Trombone / Baritone / Tuba

**Percussion** - Concert Snare Drum and Bell Kit

### Information / Survey for Ms. Garrett:

Does your child already have a band instrument? No / Yes – Instrument \_\_\_\_\_

Has your child had piano or keyboard lessons before? Yes No

Do you have a regular CD player? Yes No

Do you have an MP3 music player? Yes No

Do you have a computer? Yes No

Do you have Internet and Email at home? Yes No

If your child participated in band at another school, please list the school name, the instrument that they played and the number of years that they played an instrument.

\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your time! Please note that all band students are supposed to practice at HOME **30 minutes** or more per day (if they have instruments at home). This is their homework. The more quality practice time they have at home, the better they will sound later in the school year. I look forward to working with you and your child soon!