

Attention Incoming 6th Grade Students!



The Lufkin ISD band staff is excited to be able to give a “hands-free” assessment for assigning incoming 6th graders to an instrument.

Testing will be on Wednesday, June 10, from 3 pm to 8 pm at the LMS Band Hall.

How will a hands-free format work?

- We will have 4 safely spaced stations inside the LMS band hall at which students will have the opportunity to visit with band directors about the instrument they would like to play.
- Only 4 students accompanied by 1 parent each are allowed in the band hall at a time.
- You may wear mask and gloves if you wish, but they are not required
- Students will not touch any equipment or blow into any mouthpieces during our hands-free assessment.
- Students will not be given their instrument assignment during the hands-free assessment. Parents and students will be notified of their instrument assignment after the band staff has had the opportunity to visit with all incoming sixth grade band students.
- A list of everything that the LISD band staff considers when assigning instruments can be found in the letter on page two of this announcement.

Helpful tips for Testing Day:

- Please park in the large side parking lot at LMS and follow the signs to the band hall
- There will be a Band Director to translate for Spanish-speakers if necessary
- Hand Sanitizer stations will be set up at both the entrance and exit of the band hall
- Students (with one parent each) will need to enter the front LMS band hall doors by the covered sidewalk and exit through the doors that lead to the back loading dock.

If your student is interested in Wind Instruments **ONLY** (No Percussion), please use the following link to sign up for a testing time. <https://forms.gle/Sp1LSqLeqZJi96T97>

If your student is interested in Wind Instruments **AND** Percussion, please use the following link to sign up for a testing time. <https://forms.gle/u5c8xnw8zVNYeMat5>



Dear incoming Lufkin 6th Grade Students and Parents,

I would like to make sure that you understand the process that the Lufkin Band uses to select who will play which instrument.

Several things are considered by the band directors when deciding who will play what. The first tool that we use is the results of the Selmer Listening Survey. This survey helps us to see what areas of music may come naturally to students and which areas of music a student may struggle with. Other things that we consider when choosing certain instruments are academic performance, conduct marks, and natural physical characteristics. Certain physical characteristics make playing specific instruments much harder or much easier. Please trust us in guiding you through this process and be open-minded about which instrument you will be assigned.

In order to maintain a proper band sound, we must have the correct percentage of each instrument represented in our band. The instrument sections that must remain smaller to ensure a good band sound are flute, saxophone, and percussion. If you do not communicate that you would like to be considered to play one of these three instruments, then you will not be given consideration for them.

After we fill the maximum number of students that can play flute, saxophone, and percussion, we will then assign proportionally correct numbers of students to every other instrument. All of the instrument selection process will take place during our hands-free assessment sessions.. Students and parents will be notified of their final instrument assignment in a letter that will be sent several days after the hands-free assessment sessions. This letter not only lets the student know their instrument assignment, but also contains extra information for parents to help prepare you for your child playing their new instrument.

Please read all of the information that you receive in the mail in the coming months very carefully to find answers to any questions that you may have. If there is anything that you don't understand or anything that you want to know more about, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Hamner or Mr. Smith. We are looking forward to visiting with you soon about which instrument you will play!! Go Panthers!!

Sincerely,

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