



# FT. JOHNSON MIDDLE SCHOOL BANDS

**Ben Jones, Band Director**

1825 Camp Road ~ Charleston, SC 29412  
Phone 843-762-2740 Fax 843-762-6212  
[www.bands-of-the-island.com/fjms](http://www.bands-of-the-island.com/fjms)

## INSTRUMENT RENTAL MEETING

**Thursday, September 6, 2007  
5:00pm-7:00pm, FJMS Band Room**

Dear Parents,

Our instrument rental night will be Thursday, September 6, 2007, between 5:00 and 7:00pm. Please come whenever it is convenient for you during these times. The meeting will be in the Ft. Johnson Middle School band room.

Representatives from Music and Arts Center will be here with a display of instruments, as well as to answer any questions and explain their various plans for rental/purchase of instruments. You will be able to reserve an instrument for your child at this time. To prepare you rentals start with a \$25.95 down payment that covers the instrument for the first three months - after the 3 months it is \$25.95 per month. You can terminate the contract at any time at no cost. This price includes the following instruments: flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone and percussion kits. You may choose to add the damage coverage for \$5.50 for the first initial payment and \$5.50 per month after the trial period. Other instruments are on similar plans but prices vary.

Payments are set up on an automatic payment system so you must bring a Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express credit/debit card to put on the contract the night of the rental meeting. You can pay by check, credit card or cash for the initial payment but **MUST** have a card number with a valid drivers license to rent the instrument. Some parents do not choose the above option therefore you have to put a security deposit of \$110 down for \$25.95 instruments and \$210 for all others - then must include the initial payment - the company will then bill you monthly and not deduct from a credit card.

Students who will be playing school instruments or who already have an instrument will still need to come by the school this evening as instruments such as tuba and baritone will need to purchase their mouthpieces and maintenance supplies. Clarinet and saxophone players will be required to purchase a Rovner Ligature and a box of 10 reeds and all band students will need to pay the \$45.00 band fee to FJMS that covers the cost of all the books, band binders/music, band uniform polo shirts and festival registration fees.

Accommodations on these payments can be made on this night if needed by talking to me the night of the rental and setting up another payment option.

You are free to obtain an instrument from other places; however, I do recommend Music and Arts Center as they have provided quality service to our school for many years and their instruments are guaranteed. They come on a weekly basis and can provide any service to you or your child and their instrument at these times. **If you choose to purchase an instrument from somewhere else (pawn shops, friends, etc.) PLEASE speak to me about that instrument and even let me look at it BEFORE purchasing it, as I will give you my honest opinion on what you should pay and condition of this instrument.** I want to insure you make a reasonable purchase and your child has a dependable instrument. I know that there are local stores offering instruments for a very "cheap" price, however these instruments are not fixable to service repairmen in our area and have been known to have many problems. I look at this purchase or rental as an investment in your child and I ask that we work together to make the best possible decision for the success of your child in our band program.



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## **START-UP CAMP** **Monday, September 17, 2007** **5:30pm-7:15pm, FJMS Band Room**

We have sent up a start-up camp for Monday, September 17, 2007 from 5:30pm-7:15pm in the FJMS band room. This is the night when your child will actually get their instruments. Your child will need to be in attendance this evening. Transportation needs to be secured both to school at 5:30pm and back home at 7:15pm. Please let me know in advance if I can assist in securing a ride to insure your child can attend as I understand the closeness to the 5:00pm work hour or other challenges that may present themselves. Your child can be dropped off at the band room and picked back up **HOWEVER** if you as a parent are available **I HIGHLY RECOMMEND YOU STAY FOR THE EVENING AND LEARN WITH YOUR CHILD.** After all you are making an investment and it will enlighten you to the experiences your child will be going through. We will provide dinner for the students at 7:00pm and they will be dismissed at 7:15pm.. It is very important they be in attendance this evening as they will miss a GREAT deal if not able to attend. Please fill out the bottom portion of this letter and have your child return it to me as soon as possible. **If for some reason you cannot attend this meeting or the time frame does not work for you PLEASE LET ME KNOW IN ADVANCE so we can arrange for your child to have an instrument on the same day (Monday, September 17) as the other students in the band program. IF YOU HAVE ANY OTHER QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT ME BEFORE THURSDAY EVENING.** You can contact me by calling my office number at 843-762-2740. Thank you for your interest, I have already enjoyed and am looking forward to teaching your child in band this year.

Ben Jones

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### **Detach and Return**

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I **WILL** be there on Thursday evening, September 6<sup>th</sup>, between 5:00pm-7:00pm and realize that I will have to secure an instrument as well as take care of band fees for my child. (Band fees are \$45.00 and cover their books, band polo shirt as well as the other expenses throughout the year. I can be flexible on when this is paid if needed)

\_\_\_\_\_ No, I **WILL NOT** be able to attend on Thursday evening, September 6<sup>th</sup>, between 5:00pm-7:00pm and realize that my child will not have an instrument or supplies in band class on the first day of playing. PLEASE CONTACT ME AT 762-2740 or [benjamin\\_jones@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:benjamin_jones@charleston.k12.sc.us) **BEFORE** Thursday evening so we can make arrangements.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, my child **WILL** be there on Monday evening, September 17<sup>th</sup>, between 5:30pm-7:15pm for the startup camp.

\_\_\_\_\_ No, my child **WILL NOT** be there on Monday evening, September 17<sup>th</sup>, between 5:30pm-7:15pm for the startup camp. PLEASE CONTACT ME AT 762-2740 or [benjamin\\_jones@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:benjamin_jones@charleston.k12.sc.us) **BEFORE** Monday evening so we can make arrangements.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parent Signature*