



Liberty Middle School Bands

6801 Union Mill Road, Clifton, VA 20124

Joe LaBrie, Director



Dear Prospective 2024/25 Band Parents and Students:

Welcome to Liberty Middle School! We are very hopeful that you will consider becoming a member of our band program. We are very proud of the continued successes our students enjoy each year. We hope you will take a few moments to read over the information below concerning our band classes here at Liberty. We encourage all students to consider being part of this enjoyable and rewarding experience. As you can see from the course explanations below, there is a place for students of all musical levels in the band program. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call me at (703)-988-8250. You may also reach me by email: jdlabrie@fcps.edu

All bands meet during the school day, as one of the student's elective classes. Band will be one of their seven periods. All band classes require the use of musical instruments. We will do our best to assist any student who is unable to obtain an instrument on his/her own. Rehearsals and performances outside of normal school hours will be required as part of these courses.

Please Note: When students register for Band classes, there will only be **one choice** listed. Courses listed below are options where students may be placed. If you are not currently enrolled in a band class, you will be placed into a Beginning Level Band Class.

Beginning Level Band Classes

The beginning level band class develops skills on woodwind, brass and percussion instruments. Guidance will be given by the instructor in the selection of an instrument. Beginning/Cadet Band is for the student who has never played a band instrument before or who is changing from one instrument to another. The instruments offered are flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, and bell kit/percussion.

Intermediate/Advanced Level Band Classes

These band courses are for students who have had at least one year of experience on their current band instrument. Band students will continue to develop skills on woodwind, brass or percussion instruments. A variety of musical styles will be studied through the playing of band literature.

Placement for students in the band program is based on a few different criteria:

- Elementary teacher recommendations
- The overall instrumentation needs of the program
- A placement evaluation: *Information will be distributed in March.* Mr. LaBrie will ask students to play a few short scales/excerpts of music.

With many elementary feeders plus different private schools, we have many students to place. We want all our potential students to be successful and we will place them in the educationally appropriate ensemble base on the previous criteria. The evaluation is not meant to scare anyone away from joining our program. It is meant to better help us make sure all students are put in the right place. We want all our students to be successful, as well as ensure your band experience is fulfilling and enjoyable!

Benefits of taking Band in Middle School

- **You get to play your instrument more!**

Students have band as one of their 7 periods. That amounts to over 200 minutes of band time each week! (Compared to 60 minutes in elementary school)

- **You give more concerts!**

Students give at least 4 concerts every year, and next year, students will be able to participate in our concert performance during our Spring Trip to an amusement park!

- **You become part of a team that enjoys the same goals as you- making music!**

- You get to do something special that not everyone else in the school knows how to do.
- You learn about teamwork.
- You make long-lasting friends!
- Experience music from different styles and cultures- from Classical, to Pop, to Movie Soundtracks, and everything in between!

The Liberty MS Bands have a proud tradition, which we want YOU to join!

