

# Dutchtown Middle School Band

Richard Bresowar  
Director of Bands



DOUG WALKER  
Principal

SUSAN JORDAN  
Assistant Principal



13078 Hwy. 73  
Geismar, Louisiana 70734  
(225) 405-7234  
[www.dmsband.org](http://www.dmsband.org)

April 24, 2008

Dear Parent:

This is to let you know that your child has expressed an interest in being in the band at Dutchtown Middle School for next year. He/she has been tested for suitability for a band instrument and is in the process of selecting an instrument to play.

There are a few things you should know as you make the decision about whether to allow your child to join the band. First, this is by far the largest elective class on our campus, and is a very enjoyable activity for our students. The band participates in numerous activities, and prepares students for high school band. Students must have studied an instrument in middle school to be in the band in high school. Second, music instruction is very beneficial educationally to your child. It has been shown time and again in studies that students who have music instruction score consistently higher on math and verbal standardized tests. Further, music can lead to college scholarships. For example, every member of the LSU band receives a scholarship of \$630.00 above the TOPS award, regardless of their major. Most universities have similar programs. Third, music **is** an important part of our education. At this age, everyone can succeed at a musical instrument if they try, and the benefit is lifelong.

You are probably concerned about the cost of getting a band instrument. First, let me say that you **should not** go out and buy a band instrument at this time. Just before the opening of school in August we will have a meeting to discuss getting an instrument. At this time we simply need an instrument preference to know which beginning class your child should be in. We have different classes for different instrumental groups. In general, you do have to own or rent an instrument for your child to participate in band. Most beginning parents will choose a rental program through one of the local music stores at first, to make sure the instrument is the correct one and to save expense. I highly recommend this method. Even though a quality band instrument is a fairly large investment, it is important to remember that this is a one time thing. A good instrument will last the student through high school, and if they get a music scholarship, it will pay for itself easily. For more information about our band please go to [www.dmsband.org](http://www.dmsband.org), or feel free to call or email me at any time.

If you would like your child to be in the band next year, please sign and return the permission slip that is attached to this letter by Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,

Richard Bresowar  
Band Director  
Dutchtown Middle School  
Website: [www.dmsband.org](http://www.dmsband.org)