

# Greensburg Salem Middle School



# Band News

## Welcome back to school!

August 31, 2018

Welcome to the 2018-19 school year! Lots of exciting things are planned for our band students this fall! A band newsletter will come home with each student periodically throughout the school year to keep you up to date with important facts about our band program here at GSMS.

If you have noticed on the student schedules, all band students have their official band class listed for the spring semester. Although it is not listed on their schedule, all band students will rehearse weekly or bi-weekly in lesson groups, as they did in Elementary School. Members of the 7th and 8th grade bands will have fewer pull-out lessons as they rehearse during Mrs. West's enrichment class on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

The official band schedule will be passed out to the students and can always be found at [www.gsbands.org](http://www.gsbands.org). Concerts will be held in December and May for all band students, so mark your calendars!

Please contact Mrs. West if you have any questions or problems.

### Lesson schedule

The lesson schedule is published every two to four weeks and is posted throughout the school, as well as at [www.gsbands.org](http://www.gsbands.org)—our band website. Students will also each be given a copy of the band lesson schedule to take home.

Band students are required to attend regular 1/2 hour band lessons throughout the school year. Extra lesson times are available on specified days, as well as “extra help” times. For your reference, please find and highlight your child's lessons on their schedule and post it in a prominent place in your home.

We also use the Remind service, which will automatically send a text message the night before each band lesson. Mrs. West will send information about signing up for Remind at the first lesson of the year.

If you have any questions, please email Mrs. West at:

[jaimewest@gslions.net](mailto:jaimewest@gslions.net)

### Don't forget!

- ✓ All 6th grade band students should have their copy of Essential Elements Book 1 for band class and band lessons. 7th and 8th graders will be given supplemental materials throughout the year.
- ✓ Middle School Band Night will be held Friday evening, September 21 at the GS vs. Laurel Highlands HS football game. All 7th and 8th grade band students are encouraged to participate!
- ✓ Holiday Concert: Wednesday, Dec. 19 7 PM at GSMS (change from original newsletter)
- ✓ Spring Concert: Wednesday, May 8 7 PM at GSMS

### GS Band is on the web!

Check out our website at [www.gsbands.org](http://www.gsbands.org) for lots of important information, including:

- Monthly lesson schedules
- “Remind” information
- Forms and newsletters (like this one!)
- Practice recordings of concert music
- Online tools your child can use to help them practice more effectively at home

Please take advantage of this valuable resource!

### Does your child want more?

If your son or daughter loves music and wants to be more involved, there are several other musical opportunities available for them. Our 8th grade band students are permitted to join the Marching Band on their major instrument in the fall if they wish. We also have a Jazz Band that meets in the spring that is open to all students in grades 6-12. Band students are also encouraged to try out for the GSMS Spring Musical—you do not need to be in the chorus to participate! Lastly, any student wishing to take Private Lessons should contact Mrs. West for a list of local teachers.