

Dear Parents:

Welcome back to another year at Virgo Middle School! I hope everyone's summer was fun and relaxing, but now it is time to get back into the swing of school. Whether you are returning to the D.C. Virgo Band Program, or are joining us for the first time, I look forward to a wonderful year with you all!

All 7th/8th grade students will need a three ring binder for band class. This is to keep music, handouts, practice charts, and other papers in. Please make sure they have these binders by Friday, September 5th. If they lose it, they are responsible for replacing it.

Enclosed in this folder are important pieces of information. I **strongly** urge that you read each one carefully so that you will fully understand the way the band program works, and what responsibilities are in store for you and your child. You should find the following inside:

- Virgo Band Handbook
- Band Calendar of Events
- Media Release Form
- Expected Expenses Sheet

Below is a description of each of the above items:

- **Virgo Band Handbook** – This handbook outlines all policies of the band program – attendance, grading, homework, field trips, etc. At the end of the handbook is a student information sheet and a Band Contract. Please fill these out and return them to me by Friday September 2. Students who turn the form in by this date will receive a “100” for their first test grade. Ten points will be deducted for each day after that date. Please be sure to fill in ALL the information, including **zip code**, and student and parent email addresses (be sure to put the “@aol.com” part of the address!). Please remember to flip the information sheet over and fill out the Band Contract as well!
- **Band Calendar of Events** – This calendar lists all scheduled band events. You will also see a column that tells what grade levels are affected by each event. Please post these dates on your calendar immediately so as to avoid schedule conflicts. Other events may arise during the school year that are not currently on this schedule. I will give plenty of notice of these events as they arise.
- **Expected Expenses Sheet** – Being in band does require an amount of financial obligation. Hopefully this information will help you to budget accordingly (so we can avoid situations such as a student not having the proper performance attire for a concert).
- **Media Release Form** – You will notice that my release form is the same as the release form your child receives from his/her homebase teacher. PLEASE be careful to turn this form back in to ME, and not the homebase teacher. Students in band find themselves in situations where they may be photographed, videotaped, or recorded (such as concerts,

competitions, field trips, etc.) Because of the frequency of these events, it is necessary for me to keep a copy of this release form on file. Any student who does not turn in a release form, or who does not have permission to be videotaped, photographed, or recorded, will unfortunately not be able to participate in these types of events.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at 251-6105, ext. 107, or you can email me at bandlady813@ec.rr.com. Please also visit our website at www.virgoband.com. This is an excellent way to communicate with me and to find out the most current information and events. There are also fun scrapbook pages where you can view pictures of band events throughout the year! Again, I look forward to working with you and your child this year!

Sincerely,

Amy L. Hinson
Director of Bands
Virgo Middle School