

Smart Music

Dear Band Parents and Students,

As a director, one thing that sticks out amongst Middle School Band students is that they don't always know how to practice. Practicing at home is a tedious process that can be boring and unbeneficial at times. Therefore, I am encouraging the use of a computer download subscription that can assist students in their outside practice requirements.

Smart Music is a program that will help students practice their music at home and can encourage good practice habits through repetition and correction. With a Smart Music home subscription, students can play their music with a recorded background and get feedback from the program, rating them on their wrong notes or rhythms. The program will show them fingerings they may have missed, notes that were played wrong, and rhythms they had incorrect. They can also listen to their part or the entire band's part to help them learn. Some of the music we play in band as well as the Beginning Band's method book can all be found on Smart Music. For some students, it becomes like a video game as they strive to get a higher "score"!

Advanced band students can also find more challenging music for themselves to practice so they can continue to advance their skills while still participating in every day band.

The BLMCA parent board members have approved the use of Smart Music once again in our classroom and have purchased practice room subscriptions for us for all students to use for free. We have 4 devices that will run Smart Music and students can practice with it during lunch by checking out a device. They can create a login for themselves and it does not cost you any money. However, having Smart Music at home can help your student progress on their instruments at all levels, and is very beneficial to all students.

To Purchase a Home Subscription for Smart Music

1. Go to <http://www.smartmusic.com/>
2. Select "Purchase a Subscription"
3. Select "Classic Student Subscription" (\$40/year)
**It will encourage you to purchase a microphone at the next page. You DO NOT need a mic if you are using a laptop or iPad with a built in mic. Most laptops and iPad mics work just fine themselves. You will need a mic if you are using a computer without a built in mic.
4. Enter your personal and payment information, then you will need to download the program onto your computer to finish setting up your student's account. On an iPad, you will download the Smart Music App.

At this time, please consider getting a Smart Music Subscription for your student. Please understand that this is a completely optional program as part of the Music Corps, but can definitely help your student become a more accomplished player as they learn or continue to excel on their instruments.

If you have any questions, please contact me by email. It's the easiest way for me to respond!

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