

Read Me First!

Dear Parents and Students of the BBMS Band Program:

It is my pleasure to welcome you back to a very exciting year of music at Blind Brook Middle School. This packet contains several important pages of information regarding the installation of the SmartMusic software. **SmartMusic will be used for nearly all of your homework assignments in band this year, and it is very important that it is installed correctly.** For students in the 6th grade band, this will be new and may take some time to get used to. **For students in the 7th and 8th grade bands already familiar with the program, *please read on.***

SmartMusic is an interactive program that both records and grades your home practice. Along with a built in metronome, the program also provides a musical accompaniment for assignments. Students who are performing for solo festivals may use this program to help prepare solos, as the accompaniment will actually follow you while you speed up and slow down the tempo. Students may also practice Jazz improvisation, ear training, and scale exercises with the program.

Go to - http://www.smartmusic.com/Media/Teachers_and_Students/parent.htm - for an informative video

Included with SmartMusic is an interactive gradebook. This gradebook will automatically notify you of assignments when you log onto SmartMusic. There will also be an email reminder sent to your email address. The assignment will tell you the song, whether or not a recording is required, and will tell you the minimum grade you must get. Once you have completed the assignment to your satisfaction, SmartMusic automatically sends the file to my gradebook. **SmartMusic also tracks practice time, receives written assignments, and can be used to post announcements.**

A step by step guide for installation is included in this packet, along with a letter from SmartMusic, and a guide for setting up your account. Please note that if there is more than one student in your household, you must use a different email address when setting up multiple accounts.

For questions regarding SmartMusic installation, set-up or computer problems, please contact SmartMusic tech support at 1.866.240.4041 or at www.smartmusic.com. For any other questions please feel free to contact me at dwhitman@blindbrook.org

Sincerely,

Don Whitman
BBMS Music Department