

## Savannah-Chatham County Public School System

208 Bull Street / Savannah, Georgia 31401 / 912.395.1000

Dear Parents of Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Grade Students:

I am very pleased to announce that we will once again offer band to all sixth through eighth grade students attending middle schools within the Savannah-Chatham Public School System. This is a unique opportunity for your child to become engaged in a life-long activity that stimulates cultural and intellectual growth and is both positive and enjoyable. Band classes are taught during regular school hours and are free.

At the SCBOE we feel that music is very important to the success of the students, the schools and society. In addition to all of the social benefits of being in band class, children with music training ad significantly better verbal memory than those without such training. Nationwide, schools with music programs have significantly higher graduation rates than do those without programs (90.2% as compared to 72.9%). Students who study music continually outperform their peers on the SAT. Even the U.S. Department of Education lists the arts as a subject that college-bound middle and junior high school students should take!

Because we feel band is so important, the Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools have formed an "official business partnership" with Portman's Music Superstore to supply instruments to students on their exclusive "rent to learn" plan. This plan will give you free rent and free service for the first month and a free one hour master class when you purchase your book, music stand and needed accessories.

For your convenience, Your school Band Director and a Portman's representative will schedule a meeting at the West Chatham Middle School Cafeteria to make arrangements for the instrument rental and accessories. All accessories should be paid for at the meeting. Portman's representatives will deliver your instrument and accessories to your child at the first scheduled band class and help show your student how to get started and care for their instrument. Keep in mind that the first month's instrument rental is free, but you will need to purchase the accessories at the meeting with Portman's Music. I have listed the meeting time and location below.

I hope you give your child an opportunity to participate in this important activity!

Sincerely,

Brandon Tucker,
Performing Arts Specialist, SCCPSS

**Mission** - To ignite a passion for learning and teaching at high levels. **Vision** - From school to the world: All students prepared for productive futures