

Dear Vivace! Camp Parents,

The Vivace! Band Camp staff is looking forward to working with your child! Thank you for choosing Vivace! for your child's summer band experience. We look forward to a great camp! This letter and Camp Guidelines contain everything you will need to know. Please go over all of the information carefully before arriving at Taylor Road Middle School for your child's camp.

**Arrival:** All parents and students will come in the building through the main front entrance. Please park in the front parking lot. As you enter the building, you will see the office directly in front of you. Turn right and go down the 100 hall until you reach the atrium (high ceiling with three hallways and the lunch room entrance). We will have the registration table set up there. Please go there and check in your child. You will initial a check-in roster and your child will receive a name tag to wear all day. Once checked in, campers will turn left and go down the 500 Hall (Art and Music). The band room is the last room on the right. Campers will meet there first every day. Please do not plan to arrive before 8:30 each day! Camp will start promptly at 9:00

**Dismissal:** All parents are to park in the front parking lot and come in the building to check out their children. We will have the same registration table set up for dismissal. Parents or (designated person) will initial the camp roster before taking their child. No child will be allowed to leave unless checked out by a parent or designee. Campers will be responsible for keeping up with name tags and wearing them every day. Camp will end promptly at 3:00 and will be waiting for dismissal at that time. Please pick up your child *no later* than 3:15 each day. Staff members have additional responsibilities elsewhere after the camp, so being on time is very important.

**Auditions – Elementary Camp:** There will be no formal auditions for placement in the full band. Instead, we will evaluate students at the first sectional rehearsal to determine which band parts they will receive according to their playing ability. For example, some trumpet players will play 1<sup>st</sup> part and others will play 2<sup>nd</sup> part so that the band will have a good number of players on each part. Therefore, no audition preparation is needed. We will use the band music or well known scales as evaluation tools. No need to stress☺!

**Auditions – Middle School Camp:** Auditions will take place on the first morning of camp for placement in band(s) only. Everyone will have a place at Vivace Band Camp. Students will play scales and sight-read for their instrument specialist. Please refer to the audition requirements on our web site.

**Lunch:** Campers are to bring their own sack lunch each day for camp. Please include a drink, as well, since there will be limited availability for sodas from the machine. We will be eating lunch out in the hallway, atrium or outside depending on the weather. It is also a good idea to bring a water bottle for the day. No food or sodas will be allowed in rehearsal areas. However, water bottles only will be

allowed. Please label all reusable lunch items and water bottles with your child's name - - coolers/lunch boxes as well.

**Clothing:** Campers should wear comfortable clothing for the entire camp. Please refrain from wearing shirts with questionable writing/slogans/language and shorts that are too short, etc. Let's not wear anything that may distract in rehearsals, sectionals, master classes, etc.

**Band Instrument:** Campers are to bring their own instrument to camp each day. If a camper uses a school-owned during the year, make sure arrangements are made to use the instrument over the summer. The Vivace Camp does not have instruments other than percussion instruments available for use during the camp. Please be sure to have plenty of extra reeds, valve/slide oil, mutes, etc. There will be no need to bring a folding music stand since we have plenty at the school for all activities. Percussionists will need to bring their own sticks/mallets each day. Percussion equipment will be provided. Percussionists may bring their own snare/bell kit if they wish. All music will be provided. All campers are to bring a pencil!!!!

**Concert:** The end of camp concert will begin around 2:00 on Friday of Camp Week in the Gymnasium. It is located off the same atrium as the check in/check out table. Please come to hear demonstrations of what all has been accomplished during the week. There will be a full band performance. In addition, there may be performances of student-composed songs (very short) and jazz demonstrations. Students will be dismissed with their parents directly at the end of the concert.

**Concert Dress:** For the concert at the end of the camp on Friday, campers will receive an official Vivace! Camp T-shirt to be worn on the last day of camp and at the concert. They may wear their shorts as usual on that day and at the concert.

**Electronic Games:** We will be quite busy with camp activities. So there will not be much time for Game Boys, Nintendo DSs, PSPs, etc. It is probably best to leave them at home. However, these game systems will be allowed only at lunch time (not recreation time) and while waiting for dismissal after 3:00. We will try this and see if it works. Camp staff reserves the right to take away electronic devices if found being played during any other time. If this happens, parents will pick any confiscated games up at the end of the day and will be asked not to allow their child to bring these devices for the rest of the camp.

**Cell phones:** Bringing cell phones to camp is strongly discouraged. In the event of an emergency, a camper can use the school phone or a staff member's cell phone. If a child must have a cell phone, it must be turned off between 9:00 and 3:00 each day. Cell phone use, including texting, will not be allowed during camp hours (this also includes lunch). It will be much better to leave the cell phone at home.

**Emergency Contact:** If there is an emergency and you need to contact the camp, first try the camp director, Jay Hutcherson, at 678-478-8098. As a secondary number, please call the school at 770-740-7090 and someone at the front office will contact us.

**Special Needs:** Please feel free to type a brief letter outlining any special needs, concerns, health maintenance issues, or just things to watch out for from your child. Is there any mood, food issues, sun problems, etc? This helps all the camp staff members sort things out easier if a problem arises.

We are looking forward to a fun-filled and educational experience for everyone. We will be excited to see everyone on the first day of camp.

Jay Hutcherson, Camp Director