Welcome to CMS! I am so excited that you’ve decided to join the band! This information is designed to help answer some questions you may have about starting in band this fall. If there are any questions or concerns that are not answered, please feel free to contact Ms. Knapp (band director) via email at knapps@cahounschools.org

**How much does it cost to be in band?**
We are starting a new system to ensure that every student has what they need to have a successful year in band. In 6th grade, there is a base band fee of $50, which includes the CMS Band Polo (required for all performances), instrument book, and all cleaning/care supplies for the instrument. There are also additional fees based on the instrument played so ensure every student has the required materials needed to play their instrument (such as mouthpieces, reeds, etc.) to get these supplies at an educator price (25% off retail!). More information will be sent home during the first week of school. We are more than willing to work with you to cover the cost! No student will ever be turned away due to financial difficulties! We want every student that wants to be in band to stay in band!

**What is the time commitment like?**
Students will have band class every other day as a part of their schedule. Outside of this, we will have 3-4 concerts per year that take place in the evening. There is also a night that all 6th grade band students are invited to come to a CHS Football game and join the CHS Marching Yellow Jackets on the field to play our fight song!

**What if my child wants to play a different instrument than you decided during instrument fittings?**
Your child has already been signed up for an instrument from testing in the spring. They are in a class based on this instrument, so it is vital that we not switch instruments unless absolutely necessary. Please contact Ms. Knapp immediately if you have any concerns: knapps@calhounschools.org

**When does my child need to get their instrument by?**
All 6th graders will need their band instruments by Wednesday, August 15th. Please note: Do NOT have your child play on their instrument before we do so in class together! They may break it by trying to put it together incorrectly and/or develop bad habits by trying to start on their own.
**How/where do I get an instrument?**
When looking at options for getting an instrument, please consider the following:

- **If your child is playing flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, or trombone ...**
  - Option 1: Renting an instrument.
    - We will be hosting Gadsden Music in the CMS Band Room on Monday, August 13th and Tuesday, August 14th. This is the company that will come by weekly to our school. They have quality instruments that will enable your student to be more successful, and their instruments are put on a maintenance plan for free repairs for normal wear and tear! I highly recommend coming on this night to get your instrument.
  - Option 2: Buying an instrument.
    - This is another option. Please know that quality instruments are fairly expensive ($500+). You may be able to find cheaper instruments, but a good rule of thumb is to not get an instrument where you can also buy tennis shoes or toilet paper 😊
    - When buying an instrument, look for the following brands:
      - FLUTES – Jupiter, Yamaha, or Gemeinhardt
      - CLARINETS - Buffet, Selmer, Jupiter, or Yamaha
      - SAXOPHONES - Yamaha, Selmer, Jupiter, or Vito
      - TRUMPETES & TROMBONES - Bach, King, Conn, Yamaha, Holton
  - Option 3: “I already have an instrument that has been passed down or I found used online.”
    - If you are using an instrument that has been used by someone else, please ensure that you bring it to Ms. Knapp to examine. There may need to be some repairs made in order to bring it to good playing condition.

- **If your child is playing baritone or tuba...**
  - These instruments are much more expensive, so we have school-owned instruments for these students to use. To use a school-owned instrument, there will be a $60 maintenance fee for the year, which is added on to your band fee. More information about this will be sent home when school begins.
  - You WILL need to purchase a mouthpiece for your student. This is included in your band fee, which again allows us to get you the mouthpiece for 25% off retail prices.

- **If your child is playing percussion...**
  - You will need to rent or buy a percussion set that includes a drum pad and a bell kit. This can be done via renting through a music store or purchasing. We will be hosting Gadsden Music in the CMS Band Room on Monday, August 13th and Tuesday, August 14th. I highly recommend coming on this night to get your percussion set.
  - You will also need a beginning percussion mallet pack with xylophone, marimba, and timpani mallets, as well as snare drum sticks. This is included in your band fee, which again allows us to get you the mallets for 25% off retail prices.

*If you are worried about the financial obligation that goes along with the renting or purchasing of an instrument, please contact Ms. Knapp ASAP! We will NEVER turn away a student for financial difficulties!*