



## Memorial Middle School Bands

The South Dakota Middle School All-State Band is actually two bands of some of the top middle school musicians in South Dakota. To audition, students prepare a set of scales and etudes (short musical studies), record them in November at school, and we send them in. Various judges listen to the audition recordings and select the top musicians to perform in one of these All-State Bands. Both groups rehearse perform in a concert in Pierre the first Friday and Saturday in March.

Students who receive this letter are students that should audition next year. We think that your progress and potential are such that you stand a reasonable chance of making it into All-State Band. And, as we tell students, the worst that will happen is that you don't make it but you become a better musician for having auditioned.

Here are some important points:

- Except for percussion, all instruments prepare 2 etudes and 3 scales. Percussion prepares scales, rudiments, and etudes on snare, tympani, and mallets. **ALL AUDITION MATERIALS CAN BE VIEWED AND PRINTED AT [www.sdmea.net/ms-all-state-band.html](http://www.sdmea.net/ms-all-state-band.html)**. SmartMusic versions of the etudes are also available on this site.
- Taking private lessons is not a requirement, but our experience is that those who do study privately tend to be more successful. The private instructor list is on the band website [www.mmsband.co.cc](http://www.mmsband.co.cc). Students who do not study privately will be expected to come in for regular help after school in the fall.
- We are planning a few “open gym” days in the band room at Memorial before school starts next fall. This will be a chance for students to come to the band room during a set period of time and get help on the All-State audition music. Attendance at help sessions is not mandatory, but would be beneficial to anyone wanting to audition. I have scheduled help sessions in the band room on –

**Monday, August 13 – 12-2 (woodwinds), 2-4 (brass/percussion)**

**Tuesday, August 14 – 12-2 (woodwinds), 2-4 (brass/percussion)**

Other sessions may be scheduled as time allows. We will post any additional sessions on the band website. If you have any questions about the music or would like to meet at school to work on audition materials, please do not hesitate to contact me.

- At this point, Middle School All-State Band does not receive regular school funding. Therefore we ask parents to pay the registration fee (usually \$9), the entry fee if they make it, and provide transportation and one night's housing in Pierre for the event. Please let us know if this will cause your child not to audition for All-State and we will work to secure other funding options.

I look forward to assisting students in preparing for this opportunity and look for a “best ever” representation of Memorial students at All-State Band. Please contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Mr. Laughlin

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&

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[www.mmsband.co.cc](http://www.mmsband.co.cc)

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