**6th Grade Band**

**Summary:** The Band class offers instruction on flute, oboe, clarinet, bass clarinet, bassoon, alto sax, tenor sax, baritone sax, trumpet, horn, trombone, euphonium/baritone, tuba and percussion instruments with a focus on the skills necessary for long-term success. Fundamentals stressed include proper posture and playing position, development of characteristic tone quality, and training in music literacy. The school can provide bass clarinet, tenor sax, baritone sax, horn, euphonium, and tuba for school and home use. Other instruments should be provided for the students by parents if possible. Please feel free to contact the director for recommendations regarding instrument purchase or rental suggestions.

**Key Topics:** Sixth-grade band will review course content from fifth grade and then expand skills to an appropriate level. Fundamentals stressed include proper posture and playing position, development of characteristic tone quality, and training in music literacy. Class sessions and practice sessions will use scales, method books, and music to reinforce concepts and playing.

**Expectations:** Classes meet every other day at a scheduled time. Students will not miss other classes to attend their music class. Students are expected to have their instruments, books, music, planner, and pencil for each class. Home practice is expected to help reinforce the concepts taught in class. Two evening concerts are part of the curriculum (December and May). A concert uniform is worn by all students to include an HMS music shirt, black ankle-length or longer dress pants, dark socks, and dark non-athletic shoes.

Mr. Bennett started teaching in 1994 and had been the band director at HMS since 1997. He directs the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade bands, steel band, and teaches World/American Music. He has served on several curriculum committees, been a guest conductor, adjudicator, and clinician. He started playing trumpet in 1977 and currently enjoys an active brass quintet performance schedule. Please contact me with any questions. jbennett@bcps.org