

TO: Parents and Students
FROM: Jeff Beckman, David Hazlett, Laura Boucher
RE: Incoming McGavock Band Students
DATE: 18 May 2010

Welcome to McGavock High School, one of the largest comprehensive high schools in the State of Tennessee. As you and your child prepare to become part of a 3,000 member student body, we hope you will want to continue your music experience by becoming a member of the McGavock High School Band.

The McGavock High School Band has had an impressive history during its 38 years. The band has been named the **Tennessee State Marching Band Champion** an unprecedented 24 times. They have been named Bands of America Southeast Regional Champions three times and a National Finalist five times. McGavock has been named one of the “10 finest bands in the United States” by the National Band Association. They have won the Contest of Champions (held annually at MTSU the “granddaddy” of all marching band contests) 12 times, having won four consecutive titles in 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005. They also have a superior record of concert bands and have traveled throughout the United States, Canada, and the Bahamas.

With this impressive list of accomplishments and with the reputation of the band, we can easily understand how there can be misconceptions about the program – simple misunderstandings such as financial and time commitments which could keep your child (and you) from being part of our band family. To help eliminate these misconceptions, we are having a “get-together” for all incoming freshmen and their parents (so we can meet you and answer your questions) **Tuesday, 25 May at 7:00 PM** in the McGavock Band Room. You will have an opportunity to speak with other band parents and students to see for yourself what being a member of our band program can do for your child. This will be a very informal meeting and refreshments will be served.

We know that scheduling for classes at McGavock occurred prior to our visit at your child’s school. **If your child has not registered for band, this is not a problem. Please contact Mr. Beckman ASAP at jbeckman@mcgavockband.com**

**We hope to meet you and your child on Tuesday evening, 25 May,
to answer any and all of your questions!**

**A two-year Swiss study involved 1,200 children in 50 schools showed that students involved in the music program were better at languages, learned to read more easily, showed an improved social climate, showed more enjoyment in school, and had a lower level of stress than non-music students.*

E.W. Weber, M. Spychiger, & J.L. Patry, 1993.

**There is a very high correlation between positive self-perception, high cognitive competence scores, healthy self-esteem, total interest and school involvement, and the study of music*

O.F. Lillemyr, “Achievement Motivation as a Factor in Self-Perception,” Norwegian Research Council for Science and the Humanities.

**Musical training is a more potent instrument than any other for education, because rhythm and harmony find their way into the inward places of the soul.*

Plato