

September 19, 2007

Dear Band Parents,

The Odessa band program is currently in its second year using the smart music software. This software is a great tool in helping your student practice at home. On Monday, September 24 from 5:30-7:00 we will have a demonstration of the software in the Middle School band room.

The software is designed to teach all instrumentalists how to play the music on tempo, with correct pitches. It is very interactive software that will not only display a mistake by the student when it happens, but it gives the exact information about the mistake. It will display if the note was too high or low, too early or late, and it can show the student the correct fingering. The software can also record the student's performance as an mp3 file that can be emailed to the directors (or family members anywhere in the world). In addition to recording the students playing, they are also able to send the screen shot of how they played and send it to the directors to earn credit for class.

We are currently doing a magazine fundraiser to earn money for a computer that students can access after school in the band room to use the smart music program. The computer would be placed in a secure practice room and it would allow students that are unable to have a computer at home to still use this amazing software.

Students of percussion cannot take full advantage of the software as wind players can, but they may still get tremendous help from Smart Music. Smart music is currently unable to record and detect percussion instruments, but all the playback modes offered are still a big help to students, and no microphone is required for percussion players.

To purchase the software you must go to www.smartmusic.com. The cost of the software is \$25 for a one year subscription. The student will need a microphone for the smart music program. They can be purchased at www.smartmusic.com or through Meyer Music. On the evening of September 24, Meyer Music will take orders for microphones @ 8.95 (comes with a foam clip to go on the end of the instrument), and the microphones will be delivered on Oct. 1.

I hope that you will take the opportunity to learn about this incredible software that will help your student's success in band. If you any questions, please contact Ken Hansen at khansen@odessa.k12.mo.us.

Thank you for your support,

Ken Hansen