



Trumpet players, **Alex Meaux** [8], and **Yaroub Hussein** [8] attentively focus on their music during a trumpet feature in the piece for the spring concert. Band directors often picked pieces with trumpet features because that section was so strong.



Getting a good note in **Kimberly Ramos** [6] practices her music before class begins. Many students would try to squeeze in some practice time before class for chair tests or to learn the piece of music they were playing better.

RECRUITS for the REGIMENT

Middle school program prepares future marchers, musicians
story by v. mogavero

It starts in sixth grade. They hold their instrument for the first time with immense caution. Out-of-tune sounds and attempted musical notes reverberate throughout the band hall their first year. As every day passes, their musicianship improves. With each year, they gain more insight on not just playing notes but creating art.

"I love being in band and listening to all the different styles of songs, and how everyone has a different part in the piece," **Ashlee Wyatt** [8] said. "But it all comes together to form one."

Some middle school band students look forward to participating in the halftime performances as part of the high school band, the Regiment of Roughnecks, on Friday night games.

They must learn the basics of their instrument before they can master both performing songs and marching.

"I'm pretty excited to learn how to march," **Alyssa Hall** [6] said. "It seems like it's going to be challenging at first, but I think it will be totally worth it."

Under the direction of **Randy Whatley** and **Jason Steele**, the middle school bands competed in Gladewater twice this year for all-region band and sight reading contest, and just like every year, performed in the high school auditorium for the fall and spring concerts.

"For myself, it depends on the piece we're playing," **Yaroub Hussein** [8] said. "I've gotten some music pieces where they are difficult, but for the most part I've had no trouble."



Before performing, the seventh grade band listens quietly to director **Jason Steele**'s instructions for warm up. The band played scales and chorales in order to prep their horns for sound and tuning.



Sharing music sheets, **Cameron Bray** [6] and **Owen Loven** [6] practice their trombone skills. Band Students were often tested in sections to make sure they were learning their music well and were caught up.

Intently watching a movie, **Logan Smith** [6] and **Vanessa Swift-Macleod** [6] sit silently while others around them doodle on each other. Watching movies was a treat for the band only after they came back from a competition, or when they had a substitute teacher.

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