



# **Join the Band!**



## **Band FAQ's**



### **Who can sign up for band?**

Any fifth or sixth grade student at school is invited to participate.

### **Tell me about band!**

The band program at Sunset Ridge is a volunteer pull out program. Students who choose to join band will be pulled out of their regular class time for 30 minutes, twice a week. During this time, the students will be instructed on how to play and perform on their chosen instrument. They will also learn basic concepts in music theory, music history, and music appreciation. As this program is volunteer based, no student is forced to join; however, students who do choose to join the band are expected to participate and follow the guidelines of the band program (handbook to be handed out at rental night). **5<sup>th</sup> grade band will begin rehearsals the week of August 26; 6<sup>th</sup> grade band will begin rehearsals the week of August 19.** Schedules will be handed out as soon as they are available.

### **What instruments can I play?**

Students may choose from: flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone, and percussion. Due to the high interest and demand for percussion, any child wishing to be in percussion class must have no less than a B average in class and be void of any discipline issues in any past class. They must also pass a pre-band rhythm assessment.

### **How does my child choose an instrument?**

Last year in fourth grade, students were exposed to several instruments: flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, and percussion. It is recommended that they think back to that experience and ask themselves which one they were most successful at. I am of course available to help any student that wants to be in band but isn't sure which instrument to choose. Things to consider: woodwinds use every finger and several are reed instruments; brass require the student to "buzz" their lips to create sound (higher/tighter buzzes are best for trumpet while lower/looser buzzes are best for trombone/baritone); percussion is extremely rhythmic oriented and requires students to learn two instruments initially (bells and snare).

### **Are there any after or before school requirements? (6<sup>th</sup> grade band only)**

The Advanced Hawk Band (6<sup>th</sup> grade) students will have some before school rehearsals. These rehearsals will begin in October and will help us prepare for our December concert. More information will be sent home with the exact time and date at the beginning of October. Be on the lookout!

### **What does it cost?**

You will not pay any money to the school. Students will be required to rent their own instrument from a music dealer, like Allegro Music. These companies have a large supply of great quality instruments at very reasonable costs. Instrument rental night will be held at Sunset Ridge on Tuesday, August 20 at 5:30pm. At this night, a representative from Allegro Music will be available to answer any questions you might have about renting an instrument. There are few instruments available for rental from the school. These instruments are available on a needs basis. Priority will be given to 5<sup>th</sup> grade band members.

### **What about instrument repair and insurance?**

You and your child are responsible for maintenance and care of the instrument. This includes valve oil, reeds, and necessary repair. I am able to do minor repairs caused by every day wear and tear, major repairs can only be done by the shop from which you rented your instrument. Many companies offer an insurance agreement for rentals.

**Will my child perform in concerts?**

Absolutely! Every child will perform in two concerts during the year. These concerts are designed to give each child the unique experience of a musical performance. These concerts are an amazing learning tool while providing an obtainable goal for each semester.

**Does my child need to practice?**

Like any sport or subject in school, practice is a necessary part of the learning process. Beginning band students are expected to practice 75 minutes per week, spread over at least a 5 day period. This works out to 15 minutes a day. As the student progresses, their practice requirements will change. Advanced band students are expected to practice a minimum 100 minutes per week over at least a 5 day period. This works out to about 20 minutes a day. The more they practice, the quicker they will progress. Please encourage them to practice, as it will only help them become better musicians.

**Will my child be graded?**

Yes, students in band will be graded. Grades will be determined by attendance, effort, behavior, practice logs, assignments, playing tests, and performances. Playing tests are given once a week on new and reviewed musical skills. Because band is a pull out program, regular classroom performance and behavior will be monitored closely and can have a direct effect on whether or not a child may participate in the band.

**What if my child decides that band is not the right activity for them after they have started classes?**

Although dropping out of band is highly discouraged, there are circumstances where it is the best decision for the student. I am more than happy to work with you in any way I can to continue in the program, rather than dropping out. Parents must contact Dr. Kunz prior to your child dropping the class.