

6th Grade Band

Myers Corners Elementary School

Mr. Holod, Band Director

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The important stuff:

Our first rehearsal is Tuesday, Sept 20 in Cafeteria I.

Students need a 3-ring binder with a hard cover (not the floppy kind).

Band rehearsals are on Days 1 and 4. Lessons are on either Day 2 or 5 for 6th Graders.

Mark the concerts on your calendar.

We are planning a band trip on Saturday, June 3rd to Lake Compounce.

The details...

Welcome back! I look forward to working with everyone again this year. The second year of band is very exciting- we will be able to play much more challenging and fun music! I will be at Myers Corners Elementary School on Days 1, 2, 4 and 5. I also teach the Wind Ensemble at Roy C. Ketcham High School. This packet contains most of the information you will need for 6th grade. Please keep it so that you may refer to it during the year

Communication

I post schedules and letters that I hand to students on the 6th Grade Band Google Classroom.

Instrument Transport & Storage

Students are always allowed to bring instruments to and from school on the bus. Each student is expected to bring his/her instrument home at the end of the day every time the instrument is brought to school. Band instruments should never stay in school overnight. This will allow students the opportunity to practice and insure that the instrument is safe. Please be sure that the instrument case is marked with the student's name, school, and classroom. A luggage tag attached to the case handle works well. I also recommend that you write down the serial number and keep it in a safe place should you need it.

Curriculum

The curriculum will focus on learning proper fundamentals for performing on an instrument. Students will learn a foundation of performance fundamentals including posture, tone production, rhythm, tuning, dynamics (playing different volumes), articulation, musicianship, rehearsal behavior, and practicing.

The Schedule

Lessons meet on a rotating schedule on Days 2 and 5 and band is on both Days 1 and 4. I have already sent home a calendar of lessons and it is available on the Google Classroom.

Band Class

Every band student will have two rehearsals per six-day cycle during the school week. Each class is 40 minutes. Students who are not in band will remain in their regular classroom during this time for study hall. Sixth grade teachers have this time blocked out on their schedule similar to other 'specials' like Computer, PE, Art and Music. Your child will not miss academic instruction during this time. 6th Grade Band is held on Days 2 and 5 from 2:20 to 3:00 p.m. on the stage in Cafeteria I. Students will return to their classrooms at the end of band for dismissal.

Band Lessons

Band students will also have a 40-minute small group lesson. These lessons occur on a rotating pull-out schedule. Classroom teachers will have a schedule of band lessons and students will be excused from class to attend their lesson. During lessons, your student will learn specifics about playing his/her instrument that cannot be taught during the full band rehearsal. Therefore, small group lessons not only contribute greatly to the individual's musical achievement but to the entire ensemble's as well.

The lessons rotate so that the student does not miss the same class time each week. For example, the first Day 5 "Group L" has lessons at 10:20. The next day 5, "Group L" will have lessons at 11:00. This is all listed on the schedule and I will write the time and day of the next lesson on each week's practice chart.

A new practice chart will be handed out at each lesson. It will have a small calendar on it showing the next lesson date and time. Students will write down how many minutes they practice on each date until the next lesson. Parents should review and sign the sheet on the night before the next lesson. Below the calendar will be the assignment, grading, and comments.

Percussionists will continue to use Breeze-Easy Volume I. Some woodwind and brass students will also continue to use Breeze Easy Book I this year, but I may change the lesson book for some groups. Please purchase the book that matches your child's instrument. They are available at Alto Music, Amazon.com and D&M Music.

Performances

Mark your calendars with these dates. It is vital that all students attend the performances. Every member of the band is important and the ensemble suffers when members are missing. Also, each performance is an opportunity for you to see what your child is learning in band. Please show your support for your children by attending the performances.

If an emergency should occur, please contact me by phone or e-mail at your earliest convenience.

Our performance schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, Jan 17, 6:00pm Winter Concert at Roy C. Ketcham HS

Wednesday, May 24, 6:00pm Spring Concert at Roy C. Ketcham HS

If an emergency should occur, please contact me by phone or e-mail at your earliest convenience. Detailed information will be sent home as each concert approaches.

Materials and Supplies

On lesson and band days, all 6th Grade Band students must come to school with the following supplies:

Pencil

3-ring binder (1.5" rings are good. Please get a binder with a stiff, not a floppy cover. Binders with a thin plastic cover will not lie flat when opened.)

Practice sheet: completed and initialed by a parent

Each instrument has its own needs. They are listed below:

FLUTE: handkerchief

OBOE: extra reeds (I like the Jones brand Medium)

CLARINET, SAXOPHONE: reeds (strength 2 ½), swab and a reedguard

TRUMPET, FRENCH HORN, EUPHONIUM: valve oil, slide grease, small cloth

TROMBONE: slide oil, slide grease, small cloth

These can be purchased from local retailers or on-line.

Home Practice

Every good musician must practice his or her instrument regularly. Each week, your child will receive a practice sheet where their assignment will be recorded and the student is to write down their practice times each day. At the next week's lesson I will collect the completed practice sheet, make comments and an assessment, and hand the sheet back to your child at the end of the lesson. Take a look at your student's practice habits. Do they have a regular routine? They should be coming to you asking for your signature as verification of the total time they practiced each week. Some students naturally make time for practicing. Others may need to have a parent help schedule their time.

How You Fit In

Parent support is an essential element in a child's success with music study. Musical achievement requires effort over a period of time. Here's how you can help your child:

Provide a quiet place for practice
Schedule a consistent, daily time for practice
Encourage your child to play for family and friends
Talk to your child about lessons
Make sure your child's instrument is always in good working order

Remain nearby during practice times as often as possible
Praise your child's efforts and achievements
Expose your child to a wide variety of music, including concerts and recitals
Set reasonable goals
Show interest

"Practicing at School" versus "Practicing at Home"

Please understand that there is a MAJOR misunderstanding by most beginners in reference to in-school practicing and outside of school practicing. The "band lessons" within the school day are meant for learning new material, focusing on creativity and molding of musical thought. At school, students will work on various musical exercises and will be given assignments in the traditional take home-and-practice context. Each student will then have a set number of days in between lessons to accomplish this on their own time, as with any other curricular class homework assignment. "Home Practice" is an essential process where the fundamental work and breakdown of musical technique is covered by the student.