

Sixth Grade Band Sign-up Information

Please keep in mind that participation in band requires no prior formal music instruction. The most important factors for your son or daughter to have a positive experience in band are attitude and enthusiasm.

Dear Parents –

As a sixth grader this coming school year, your son or daughter now has the opportunity to learn the language of music (reading music and performing expressively) through involvement in the band. With a certain amount of effort on the part of students, band can be very rewarding and enriching.

Band meets during the school day several times a week.

I need to get all band students' first two lessons in before the school year starts because the schedule does not allow time for lessons during the school day for 6th graders. If your family schedule does not allow for your son or daughter to be involved in lessons between August 20th and August 24th, they can still start band at the beginning of the school year. (I will work out times on a case by case basis to get them started.)

There will be an open house for parents and students on Monday, August 13 from 4:00 until 6:30pm in the band room. There will be handouts detailing band activities and requirements, used instruments will be on display for sale, and a **rep from Instrumental Music Company (based in Green Bay) will be on hand to help you work out instrument rental plans.** I will also be around to answer any questions you might have about the band program, etc. If you have a used instrument that you'd like to have checked, bring it along and I can make sure it is in workable playing condition. You could also have me check an old instrument anytime. Just give me a call.

Please look over the enclosed information about the middle school band program. Feel free to call if you have any questions or concerns. My home number is 756-2369 and my school number is 756-2166, ext 4014. My cell is 920-875-0073.

Please be very careful about ordering instruments over the internet. I have seen some very poor quality instruments (to the point where they are not even playable) come from "great deals" people have found on the internet.

Sincerely,
Mr. Kevin Hussey, Middle School Band Director

Concerts

The sixth grade band does a Christmas concert and a spring concert. Many more performance and travel opportunities are available as students progress through the middle and high school bands.

Instruments

Rental instruments – I would recommend Instrumental Music Company or Heid Music based on a positive track record for service and reliability. A rep from IMC will be here for the organizational open house on August 13 to present their rental program and answer any questions you may have.

Used instruments are available through classified ads in the newspaper, craigslist.com, or other sources (relatives, neighbors, friends, etc.). They are usually less expensive than renting, but repairs can get costly, so it is a good idea to have somebody look an instrument over before purchasing. I will also have some used instruments for sale at the August 13 open house. **There are a lot of what could be called disposable instruments on the market, where they will play okay for a while, but when it is time for maintenance and repair, it can't be done because the parts on some of these instruments are not standard. Please call for advice before purchasing a new or used instrument.**

School Instruments are available for students who decide to play oboe, french horn, baritone, or tuba. School instrument rental charges are \$30 per semester or \$60 for the whole year. (These are fees that can be waived if they present a financial difficulty for your family.)

Percussion (aka drums): It is helpful for students who want to be drummers to have a piano background. It is not required. What is required is a solid sense of rhythm. When students try instruments, I can test for a feeling for rhythm. Percussionists pay a school fee of \$40 per school year to help maintain the instruments. I also ask percussionists to purchase a practice pad and sticks, which I can order for them (they give the school better prices, so it is to your advantage to let me order them). The sticks and practice pad would be a one time cost of about \$25. I have portable bell sets that I check out to percussionists as well.

Sign-up procedure

1. Fill out the sign-up form and return it to Mr. Hussey or to your classroom teacher as soon as possible.
2. I will meet with students (during the school day or by other arrangement) to let them try instruments. We need to find a good match between a student's physical attributes and an instrument. We also need to try to balance the instrumentation of the band. If a band has too many of one or not enough of another instrument, they will not be able to make the music sound as good as it should. A form will be sent home with an instrument recommendation for your son or daughter.
- 3. There will be an open house for parents and students on Monday, August 13 from 4:00 until 6:30 pm in the band room.** There will be handouts detailing band activities and requirements, used instruments will be on display for sale, and a **rep from Instrumental Music Company will be on hand to help you work out instrument rental plans.** I will also be around to answer any questions you might have about the band program, etc. If you have a used instrument that you'd like to have checked, bring it along and I can make sure it is in workable playing condition.
- 4. Lessons will begin on Monday, August 20th and run through Friday, August 24th.** I will get more specific with the schedule when I see what the instrument groups look like. I'd like to get everyone in for at least two lessons before the school year begins.

Sixth Grade Band Sign –up Form

Student Name _____

Parent Name(s) _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

Parent Signature _____

Instrument Preference

Choose from the following: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Trumpet, French Horn, Baritone, Trombone, Percussion, Saxophone, Tuba.

Instrument Choices:

1st _____

2nd _____

3rd _____

I will meet with all students to let them try various instruments. A form will be sent home with an instrument recommendation.

