

Beginning Band Information

INSTRUMENT TESTING

During the first full week of school, I will pull students to do instrument testing. Students are all uniquely suited to different instruments and my job is to help them find the instrument they will be most successful with. I will send home information with the student about our discussion/mouthpiece testing and a recommendation for what instrument they should play.

OBTAINING AN INSTRUMENT

The information sent home after instrument testing will contain information on obtaining an instrument. You can expect to pay about \$30-45/month to rent an instrument. We do have a very limited amount of instruments that can be borrowed from SJCS. There will be an instrument contract required if an instrument is borrowed from SJCS, as well as a deposit (this can be paid monthly or yearly). Please let me know as soon as possible via email if you would need to borrow an instrument.

PERFORMANCES

Students in fourth grade will NOT participate in a formal ensemble. Students may be asked to participate in small ensembles, but the main focus of this first year of band is developing individual musicianship skills. There will be an event towards the end of the year where students can play solos and small ensembles to perform for families and friends. This event will be on 5/15.

Students in fifth grade and older may be invited to participate in our 5th grade band or MS band. This is based on student progress through our method books and work ethic (see practice policy below).

LESSONS

I will work with teachers to develop a lesson schedule. On days students have their lesson, they will need to bring their instrument and sheet music to school.

Missing Instrument/Sheet Music Policy: If your student does not bring their instrument to school on a lesson date, I will reschedule their lesson one time per trimester. Students will write an email with me during their designated lesson time to parents/guardians with a request for a rescheduled lesson and a plan to help remember their instrument. If a student forgets their instrument again in the same trimester, the lesson will not be made up.

Missed Lesson Policy: If I am unable to be at a lesson, I will reschedule the lesson for a different time/day. If a student has a classroom party/other classroom major event/field trip, I will reschedule the lesson. If a student is not at school due to sickness/family reasons/etc., parents need to email me BEFORE the scheduled lesson in order to reschedule the lesson.

PRACTICING

Practice outside of school is a vital part of a student's musical growth. Lessons are for help with concepts students do not yet understand, not to sit with them as they practice skills we have already learned that just need more practice. Students in 4th grade will be expected to practice for an hour each week. I would suggest breaking this up into 10 minute sessions 6 days out of the week, but students and families can divide this as they see fit.

Students will be given a practice log for each trimester. They need to record how much they practice each day and get parent/guardian initials for each week of practicing. If a student has their practice log complete for their lesson, they can choose a sticker/other prize from my bin. Students with 11 complete weeks for a trimester will be invited to our “practice party” at the end of each trimester.

BAND FEES

Band fees are \$650 for the year. This is billed through Odyssey and instructions will be sent to you. If you qualify for ESA funds, those funds can be put towards band fees.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me (Miss Parker). My email is mparker@stjosephcatholicdsm.org. I look forward to this school year with your students!