

ANNE SULLIVAN ELEMENTARY

BAND HANDBOOK 2019-2020



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WHY JOIN BAND?

Band is a solid investment; if students put in the practice time, they will be successful.

They will acquire musical literacy, form productive friendships, and develop the necessary skills to improve upon and succeed in their other work outside of band. They will generally pick up languages quicker (including computer languages), score higher on standardized tests, and have increased marketability to colleges as they get older. Band will also provide a healthy outlet for creativity and expression.

Band participation will give your student life-long skills, or, in other words, the educational advantage to succeed in life. Band is not just for “fun and enjoyment”; it is an exercise in self-discipline. Students may experience fun and enjoyment, but only through practice and hard work.

Music is something that students can do for the rest of their lives. Students will learn a skill that they use throughout school and adults, maintaining and building lifelong friendships, and connecting with the world through a truly universal language.

PRACTICE EXPECTATIONS

As your student begins to learn an instrument, we cannot overstate the importance of a consistent practice schedule. Students who practice 15-20 minutes per day experience a great deal of success. Ensuring that your student sticks to this schedule will make band a worthwhile investment for everyone. The most successful students have consistent practice schedules.

One fact remains clear: the success of the student is based on the involvement of the parent. It is common for students to go through ups and downs in their motivation early on in learning an instruments. It is almost inevitable that they may lose interest within the first few months. If you want your student to succeed, you will likely have to encourage and possibly require your student to practice. Would you allow your student to skip homework just because he or she did not like it?

The loss of interest is a natural phase that all students go through. It is this difficult period when they need you the most. If students are going through a rough patch, they will often choose the path of least resistance, or what activity is more fun at a given point. If you believe that your child’s band participation is a positive thing, encourage your child and let him or her know that you expect that he or she will enjoy band in the long run.

One possible suggestion for encouraging practice is to devise a reward system that reinforces the 15-20 minutes/day schedule. Younger students will not always notice their progress from day to day, and a reward system helps to provide the self-discipline necessary for these students to achieve success.

SCHEDULE

Classes (also referred to as lessons)

Lessons occur once per week for 30 minutes. Students will be pulled out of their normal classroom to attend lessons, so they are expected to make up all work that was missed. They will be divided into lesson groups and will always bring their instrument on the SAME DAY for lessons. However, their lesson time will rotate on each day that they are expected to bring their instrument, so they are not always missing the same subject. Lesson groups and schedules for both 4th and 5th grade can be found by using the following QR codes. The 4th grade lesson groups and schedules will be updated in the coming days following sign-up night.

Band lessons start the following weeks:

4th grade - the week of Monday, September 9

5th grade - the week of Tuesday, September 3

GROUPS



SCHEDULES



Before School Rehearsals

These rehearsals include everyone in the beginning band programs to play together once per week. Rehearsals will be held in the morning from 7:25 AM-8:15 AM in the MacArthur band room. 4th grade rehearsals are on Thursday mornings and 5th grade rehearsals are on Tuesday mornings. This is a REQUIRED activity if students participate in either band or orchestra. Students will be walked over to Sullivan by Mr. Anderson after the rehearsal.

Before school rehearsals start the following days:

4th grade - Thursday, Oct. 3

5th grade - Tuesday, Oct. 1

Concert Dates

Concerts will take place in the MacArthur gym at 7 PM. Students are expected to arrive by 6:30 PM the night of concerts. Every band member is an active participant in the concert - there are no bench-warmers in band! Therefore, it is expected that all students are in attendance at these concerts. Concerts will take place on the following dates:

Monday, December 16

Monday, March 9

Tuesday, March 12

INSTRUMENTS

Instrument Rentals

There is no additional charge for lessons, only the cost of renting an instrument, the lesson book (*Essential Elements, Book 1* for 4th grade and *Essential Elements, Book 2* for 5th grade), and a few accessories we will need to get started. Rentals are at a low monthly rate and are rent-to-own, so when you pay off the balance of the instrument it is yours to keep. You can visit <http://www.qandf.com> or call 800-63-SOUSA (Quinlan and Fabish) for more details.

Instruments

Students can start on one of the following instruments:

Flute

Oboe

Clarinet

Trumpet

French Horn

Trombone

Baritone

Tuba*

Percussion**

*Please see Mr. Anderson if your student is interested in playing tuba.

**Percussionists will purchase a bell kit with a set of concert bells and a drum pad for practice. Larger instruments for use at the concerts and full band rehearsals will be provided at school rehearsals and concerts. In addition to *Essential Elements*, percussionists will also purchase an additional drum method book to supplement their practice.

Additional Note We do not start students on saxophone in District 23. If your student is interested in the saxophone, we will start your student on clarinet and discuss switching over to saxophone midway through the year in 5th grade or as they are about to enter middle school at MacArthur.



You can learn more about the instruments using the following QR code: