

St. Mary's School Band Program

Thank you for choosing to play in the St. Mary's School Band. My goal is to make sure all students have a fun and rewarding learning experience.

Below are some of my thoughts, information and expectations for your child as our musical journey begins.

When learning an instrument, we also learn some important disciplines (scheduled daily practice times, being gentle with our instrument, focus and concentration, learning how to listen to oneself and others, being courteous and patient to our bandmates). When disciplines become habit, we have success.

A wise old man once told me: "Repetition + Desire = Success".

1. The first day of band classes start Thursday, September 19. Their teachers will have the student's music schedule, and they will be released to the art/music room.
2. Students will have a 1/2-hour group lesson. Groups will be assigned by instruments and playing ability: Group A - Beginner Level 4-7th grade, Group B - Intermediate Level 5th and 6th grade, and Group C - Advanced Level - 7th and 8th grade. Students will also have a 1/2-hour band rehearsal where everyone meets. This will be split into two or three groups according to experience and ability.
3. Player Level Practice Expectation - Students will have a folder to keep their music organized.
Group A - 80 minutes of practice time per week, to be logged on their supplied practice sheet and initialed by parents.
Group B - 100 minutes of practice time per week, to be logged on their supplied sheet and initialed by parents. Requirement: one octave concert Bb major scale. Also able to read a supplied sheet music after two weeks.
Group C - 120 minutes practice time per week logged in on their supplied practice sheet and initialed by parents. Requirement: one octave concert Bb major scale, and their corresponding blues scale supplied. Also be able to read supplied sheet music after two weeks.
4. All drummers and percussionists - bring their practice pad and sticks, or bell kit.
5. Method Books
Group A - Standard of Excellence Book 1 - Supplied
Group B - Standard of Excellence Book 1 supplied, review and start in the middle. Supplied band pieces and scales.
Group C - supplied sheet music, band pieces, jazz pieces, scales and warm-up exercises. Level to be determined.
6. All students should bring their instruments to school Thursday AM and bring them home Thursday PM.
7. CONCERT ALERT! Our first band concert is Thursday, December 12. Save the date.

Thank you for your support in bringing music education to your child,

Jim Martocchio