

Woonsocket-Sanborn Central

Beginning Band Handbook

Miss. Janae West

"We exist to make each other better."

Why is music class offered? Why is it important?

While music's impact on brain development and academic achievement is of great importance, music education is important for reasons beyond academics.

NAfME (National Association for Music Education) believes that music study does something even more important for students.

- Music education shapes the way our students understand themselves and the world around them;
- Studying music allows for deeper engagement with learning; and
- Music education programs essentially nurture the assets and skills that pave the way for a student's future success, such as curiosity, creativity, collaboration, self-discipline, and motivation.

Music education has worth and significance. A student's participation in band is an essential element of a complete education.

What do I need for band this year?

You will need to keep your instrument in good working order throughout the year. Miss. West does her best to repair minor issues. Sometimes, though, you may need to take it to a music store. All beginning band students need Essential Elements Book 1, a music stand (for at home practice), and an instrument identification tag.

Make sure you have all the accessories you need to keep your instrument in good working condition.

Flutes: cleaning rod,
cleaning cloth

Clarinets + Saxes:
cleaning cloth, cork grease, box of
10 Rico reeds

Trumpets, French horn,
trombone,
baritone/euphonium: Valve oil

It is a good idea to have access to a metronome at home as well. There are several metronome apps for free, or visit metronomeonline.com. If possible, please download the FREE app "bandmate chromatic tuner".

Is there any homework?

Band is a class, and just in other classes sometimes you have homework. Practicing is like homework, just a lot more fun! You might not always like to practice, and that is okay. Your goal should be to practice at home for 15-30 minutes, 5 days a week. The more *often* you practice, the easier it will be for your brain to remember everything you are learning.

We also get to perform several times through the year! All performances are required. Make-up assignments will be given to those who miss a performance.

What are my learning targets? How will I be evaluated?

By the end of the year, it is my goal that all students be proficient at the following:

- I can put together my instrument correctly.
- I can properly care for my instrument.
- I can use correct posture when holding my instrument.
- I can use correct embouchure/hand position to sustain sound and tongue on my instrument.
- I can tap a steady tempo with my foot.
- I can read, count, and play melodies with the pitches concert Bb, C, and D; and rhythms with quarter notes and quarter rests.
- I can read, count, and play melodies with the pitches concert Eb and F.
- I can read, count, and play melodies with half notes and half rests.
- I can read, count, and play melodies with the pitch concert G.
- I can read, count, and play melodies with eighth notes.
- I can read, count, and play melodies with the pitch Ab, and dotted-half notes.
- I can read, count, and play melodies in $\frac{3}{4}$ meter.
- I can read, count, and play melodies with the pitch concert A, and rhythms with tied notes.
- I can read, count and play melodies with the pitch concert G, and rhythms with ties across the bar line.
- I can read, count, and play melodies with the pitch concert Ab, A, E, B and 1st and 2nd endings

What do I need to wear for our performances?

Please dress semi-formally. This is something similar to what you might wear to church on a special holiday, or a funeral. Take care to choose modest necklines and skirt/dress lengths. Make sure you wear clean shoes and clothing with no rips and/or holes and avoid wearing leggings as pants.

What should I do if I have a question or my parent/caregiver has a question for Miss. West?

Miss. West would love to talk to you in person! You are welcome to come watch us rehearse as well. Feel free to contact Miss. West with any questions via e-mail at janae.west@k12.sd.us.