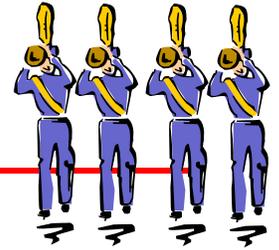


# BAND Is Success for Life!



2565 Mesa Avenue \* Oroville, CA 95966 \* 530-532-3026 ext. 227 \* [rwolcott@ocesd.net](mailto:rwolcott@ocesd.net)

## *How is BAND success for life?*

Band is a positive atmosphere where kids can take pride in what they do (individually and corporately) and develop skills, interests, and relationships that will continue with them throughout their school career and life. Please visit Facebook – **The Central-Ishi Band** to see and hear the fun and learn more about my background.

## *How does my son or daughter sign up?*

To qualify for the district band program, students in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and his/her parents must read this letter (front & back), fill out and sign the attached contract, and bring it to the next band class, which starts immediately (see schedule on back).

## *Who should NOT sign up for band... yet?*

**The time at which children start band is critical to their success.** If the student fails now, he/she may never try again. Therefore, if you and your child are not committed to the 4 month obligation (see contract), or you think your child may struggle in his/her classroom, get distracted by other extracurricular activities, loses things easily, is not self-motivated in school, or you think you may be unable to enforce daily practice, PLEASE WAIT until the 7<sup>th</sup> grade for your child to start band. Students that start in 7<sup>th</sup> grade have a much higher success rate because: **1)** they are not pulled from any class, **2)** they have first dibs on the district instruments **3)** they are physically and mentally more mature, and **4) they meet DAILY** rather than 2-3 times a week as most 6<sup>th</sup> grade schools do.

## *How does it work?*

Once a student has shown the completed contract to his/her classroom teacher and the teacher has signed it, the student should ask to be excused from class at the specified time (on back). **Students will be responsible for all work given in their homerooms while they are in band class.**

## *What instrument do you recommend for my child?*

Instruments taught in 6<sup>th</sup> grade: flute, clarinet, alto sax, trumpet, trombone, bells, and drums. Ultimately the instrument choice will be left up to the student (and parent), but there are some important things to consider before choosing an instrument. Flute is one of the harder instruments for smaller/younger students to learn due to the finger independence, balance, and mouth position that is involved. Playing the clarinet or the saxophone will require you to buy reeds. These woodwind instruments have more moving parts than most other instruments and are also more easily damaged, but if the student (and parent) is responsible and determined, he/she should succeed on these relatively difficult but beautiful sounding instruments. The brass instruments (particularly trumpet) are relatively easy to learn and are the more rugged instruments that don't require much maintenance or reeds that need to be replaced regularly. We always need more brass beginners because after they learn a trumpet or trombone, they can easily switch to a baritone, French horn, or tuba, which are all needed in the upper levels. The chance of receiving one of the brass instruments from the district is also much higher than the other instruments due to supply and demand. Due to the demand some instruments may run out. Past grades and teacher recommendations will be considered when assigning these instruments (usually flute and saxophone). Students are encouraged to rent their own instrument from one of these reputable dealers if one from the district is not available. Housers Music 533-9336  
[www.housersmusic.com](http://www.housersmusic.com) ; [www.1800usaband.com](http://www.1800usaband.com) ; [www.musicconnectionchico.com](http://www.musicconnectionchico.com)

## *How do we get an instrument, book and other necessary items?*

To apply for a **district instrument**, students and parents must read, agree to, and pass a test related to the conditions stated on the Instrument Checkout Form that I will pass out later. This form and test will be given only to those who have shown responsibility in their homeroom as well as in the band class. It will take 2-3 weeks for students to demonstrate proper assembly and care of the instrument, and it is at that time when they will be required to start taking the instrument home daily. There is no charge for the borrowing of a district instrument; however, students who check out a district instrument should plan on \$25 for repairs that cannot

be made by Mr. Wolcott (rare). Replacement costs (ie. stolen, lost, or irreparable damage) from \$75-\$400 should also be considered prior to taking responsibility for a district instrument. All students who are able will need to purchase an *Essential Elements* book 1 (\$10 apprx). **All books and reeds may be purchased from Houser's Music (see below) or any online dealer of your choice.** Clarinet and sax players must **purchase at least three reeds** (size #1 ½ or #2, try both). A starter reed (size #2) will be given. Bell players and drummers will need to purchase the book above for "percussion" (\$20). Drummers need to buy sticks (size 5A w/nylon tips) and a drum pad. If you cannot afford any of these items, please send a note with your child stating your situation and I will try to provide the items needed until your situation changes. Call Houser's before going there as they often run out of books early in the year. Ishi students will share lockers and most will need to acquire a **combination** lock in order to safely store their instrument at school. Central students are to drop off their instrument in the instrument room by 8:15 on each day of their band class.  
**Houser's Music** - 1944 Bird St., Oroville, 533-9336

#### *How much practice time is required?*

Students are required to practice 5 days a week, but may need more if they find themselves falling behind the rest of the class. The minimum amount of time per practice should be 15 minutes for most; however, many students will need more. If students realize that they have no choice but to practice (perhaps before free-time activities), they will improve, enjoy band, and continue on the rest of their life! **The long term success of the student often depends on the parent's enforcement of practice at home.** The practice record will help to facilitate this by being initialed by the parent each night the student practices their assignment. Have your child perform for family often and you will see better motivation and improvement. Those who practice after school in the Central band room are not required to practice at home.

#### *When and where do the band classes take place?*

The band schedule for each school is below. This schedule should be posted at home and in the classroom to aid the student in remembering to bring his/her instrument to school on "band days"! Students who fail to take their instrument home OR to band class three times in 30 days may be suspended from the band program. Students who forget their instrument **MUST** come to class anyway (with a pencil) so they will not fall further behind and cause me to come get them. Students should start coming as soon as the contract is filled out and signed by the classroom teacher. All 6<sup>th</sup> grade applicants are invited to come to all classes the first week as to "try out" the different instruments, then they are to follow the band schedule according to their instrument of choice. Students are also encouraged to come after school (Central) for extra help or practice.

#### *How do you grade?*

Band is a graded class that will be on the report card. The letter grade will be based 20% on attendance (which includes attending all classes, performances and remembering to bring the instrument, book, and pencil to class), and 80% on weekly tests. If your child will be (or has been) absent, or unable to practice or bring his/her equipment, a note from home (or preferably an email) will greatly reduce confusion. When band students are at school they are required to "finger" the notes even when they do not feel well. Being at school and not coming to band will be considered an unexcused absence which requires a parent contact and an after school detention in the band room.

#### *Can I come and watch?*

You are always welcome in the band class. In fact, you will have a better idea of what is expected of your child if you do come and observe. There will be 3-4 performances for your child this year. Performance times, dates, and details will be sent home with each student at least two weeks prior to each performance. If you have other questions, please contact me, Ron Wolcott, at **Central School** (see letterhead) or write a note.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Beginning Band Schedule**

**Ishi Hills – 2<sup>nd</sup> period 9:11-9:45am MWF; Mini Day 9:05-9:39**

**Central – 7<sup>th</sup> period 12:56-1:42pm; Mini day-11:34-12:04**

**MW – Clarinet, Trumpet, Drums**

**TTh – Flute, Saxophone, Trombone, Bells**

# Band Contract

Complete this form **front and back** then **bring with you to your first band class.**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

6<sup>th</sup> Grade teacher \_\_\_\_\_ room # \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in school \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) Phone Numbers \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Student Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one box:

I already own or have access to an instrument that I want to learn. It is a \_\_\_\_\_.

I will need to use a school instrument. I realize my first choice may not be available.

If you checked this box, you will need to fill out and test on an Instrument Checkout Form (given in band class).

*I have read the recruiting letter and will:*

- 1) **Keep up in my homeroom by turning in all my assignments on time,**
- 2) **Practice all of my band assignments at least five days a week, and**
- 3) **NOT QUIT FOR at least FOUR MONTHS.**

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*I will provide my child with the materials and encouragement needed to succeed in band for at least FOUR MONTHS. It is ok with me if you publish pictures of my child in band functions on the Internet (no names will be linked to pictures).*

**Is there anything I should know about your child/student that will help me to teach your child?** (learning disability, English language learner, medical condition, ADD, resource student/time, prior music experience, too smart for their own good ☺, etc.)

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Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*This student has shown that he/she is keeping up in class, is generally responsible, and has turned in all required assignments. If he/she fails to turn in work or leaves his/her instrument in my class, I will notify you and the parent immediately.*

Teacher Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*I will instruct, grade, and encourage each student to the best of my ability... while having fun!*

Band Director Signature Ron Wolcott Date August 19, 2019

**Please turn over and ensure the student completes the Recruiting Letter Quiz.**

# Recruiting Letter Quiz

To be taken by the student with parent follow-up.

1. What items will you need to purchase when you get an instrument assigned? What is the name of the band method book?
2. Where will you purchase the book and any other necessary instrument items?
3. What should you have your parents do if you cannot afford a book?
4. How long do you have to keep going to band before you are allowed to quit?
5. How many days per week do you have to practice once you are cleared to take the instrument home?
6. What may happen if you forget to bring your instrument three times in 30 days?
7. If you forget to bring your instrument to school, what should you do when your band time comes? What should you bring with you?
8. When I am not at your school and you or your parents need to ask me a question, what phone number and email should they contact?
9. Do you have any learning challenges that may help me to better teach you (ie English learner, ADD, medical condition, resource class-time)?
10. In what two areas will you be graded?
11. Where will you store your instrument at school?

**Answers to the questions below are not found in the letter, but they must be answered.**

12. What will you do in your class to help you to remember to go to band at the right time?
13. Once an instrument is checked out to you, what will you do at home to help you remember to bring your instrument on “band days?”
14. Explain why you want to be in band.

Over for Contract