

# **BEGINNING BAND PROGRAM**



## **STUDENT/PARENT GUIDE BOOK**

**“Band members have a special bond. A great band is more than just some people working together. It's like a highly specialized army unit, or a winning sports team. A unique combination of elements that becomes stronger together than apart.” - Steven Van Zandt**

# BEGINNER BAND

The purpose of this document is to give you information concerning the district's band program and to answer any questions that you may have regarding your child's participation.

The following are some common questions you may have about the band program:

## **Which instruments may beginners choose?**

Woodwinds: Clarinet, Flute, Alto or Tenor Saxophone

Brass: Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba

Percussion: Drums, Bells, Keyboard

## **Where do I find an instrument for my child?**

Band instruments may be rented or purchased from any music store. Used instruments found in the paper, or from home may be used with director approval. I do not recommend purchasing an instrument out of a department store catalog, discount store, or eBay. If you chose to do this please discuss it with me before buying the instrument.

## **How will my child be assessed in band?**

Grades will be used to help monitor a students' progress in band. Grades will be based on lesson attendance, practice sheets and participation.

## **Does my student receive lessons?**

Yes, students will get a 15-20 minute lesson weekly. Students are responsible for any work that is missed during the lesson. Students will have an assignment each week as well as weekly practice sheets.

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

Practice: Just like any other class, band also has homework. This homework is for students to practice their instrument every day. Help your student to arrange a consistent schedule of daily practice. 20-30 minutes a day will be most beneficial for the student. You will be amazed to hear their improvement!

## **Will my student perform?**

Concerts are major events for band members and for the band program. Concert performances are the culmination of the hard work and effort students have put into practicing their instrument and building their skills as musicians.

## **What are the requirements for beginning in full band rehearsals?**

These are all things we will continuously work on and are not all expected to be perfect right away.

The student needs to achieve the assigned level of progress in the lesson book.

1. Attend lessons regularly and is prepared for each lesson (Demonstrates good practice habits).
2. Demonstrate good tone on instruments
3. Demonstrate ability to count lesson material and have a basic understanding of musical elements involved with the assigned music lesson.
4. Demonstrate proper care of the band instrument.
5. Bring all required materials to band lesson (signed practice sheet, book, and instrument.
6. Demonstrate musical independence (Must be able to play on own.)

## **How do I go about purchasing a new or used instrument?**

Dave Williams from Williams Musical Repair has a rent-to-own program. I have attached the information for him as well as other places to go to as well.

Be careful buying an instrument from someone else. Make sure it is playable or you are aware of the things that may need to be fixed. If your instrument is in poor shape it will make playing harder and frustrating for students. As I said before, I DO NOT, recommend buying instruments from a department store catalog, discount store, or eBay.

## **How will being in band help my student?**

Music builds many skills for students that can apply to them for the rest of their lives regardless if they play their instrument the rest of their lives or not.

1. It builds teamwork between them and the other band members.
2. Develop individual tasks for social life at school, home, church, and community.
3. Gain problem solving skills and memory skills.
4. Understand music through familiarity of a wide variety of compositions.
5. Experience the joy and appreciation of performing music with others.
6. Develop desire to listen to music that they may never have had the opportunity to listen to before.
7. Build self-confidence, self-esteem, and self-discipline.
8. Strive for high standards of achievement in individual and group settings.

## **What can I do as a guardian to ensure success for my student?**

1. Show an interest in your student's music.
2. Help your student find time to practice their instrument daily.
3. Encourage your student strive for their best and praise them for their achievements!
4. Help them keep their instrument in the best condition possible.
5. Encourage your students to perform for others

If you have any questions, feel free to email me or call me at the school! I am always happy to help or give suggestions. I am very excited to work with your student and together we'll learn a lot!

Miss Jacque Bratcher  
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## **Recommended Music Stores:**

### **Williams Musical Repair**

Dave Williams

2851 S. Highway 37

Mitchell, SD 57301

605-996-4422

### **Schmitt Music**

1020 East 41<sup>st</sup> Street

Sioux Falls, SD, 57105-6031

605-339-6030

### **Sloan Music Studio**

612 W. Walnut Street

Parkston, South Dakota

605-505-0080

### **Taylor Music**

513 South Main Street, PO Box 670

Aberdeen, SD, 57754

1-800-872-2263

[www.1800usaband.com](http://www.1800usaband.com)

### **Popplers Music**

1119 W 41<sup>st</sup> St

Sioux Falls, SD, 57105

605-336-6332

## Recommend Instrument Supplies/Brands Band Department

### **Woodwinds:**

**Flute:** Yamaha, Geminhardt, Armstrong, Jupiter

**Clarinet:** Yamaha, Buffet, Leblanc, Selmer

Minimum of 4- #2.5 Rico Clarinet reeds or Medium Soft La Voz  
Swab

**Alto Sax:** Jupiter, Yamaha, Vito, Selmer

Minimum of 4- #2.5 Rico Alto Reeds or Medium Soft La Voz  
Swab

**Tenor Sax:** Jupiter, Yamaha, Vito, Selmer

Minimum of 4- 2.5 Rico Tenor Sax Reeds or Medium Soft La Voz  
Swab

### **Brass:**

**Trumpet:** Bach, Holton, Yamaha

- Bach 3C Mouthpiece
- Valve Oil

**French Horn:** Conn, Yamaha

- Holton Farkus Medium Mouthpiece
- Valve Oil

**Euphonium:** Bach, Yamaha, Holton, Jupiter, Mack Brass

- 6 ½ Bach AL Mouthpiece or 6 ½ plastic mouthpiece
- Valve Oil

**Trombone:** Bach, Conn, Yamaha, Jupiter Mack Brass

- Slide Oil

**Percussion:** Drum kit with bells

- Vic Firth SD 1 General Snare Drum Sticks or Vic Firth Symphonic Signature Snare Drum Sticks
- Drum/Bell kit
- Alfred's Drum Method Book 1