

5TH GRADE BAND HANDBOOK

2009-2010

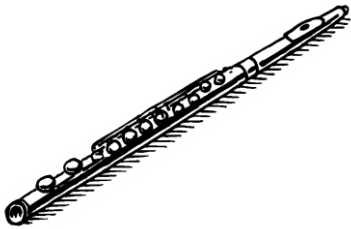
MR. DAVID LARZELERE MR. DAVID GORBE
DIRECTORS

WHAT IS BAND?

Band is a class that meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays for about 40 minutes each class. It is made up of students learning to play wind or percussion instruments together as a group, and perform a few times throughout the year.

Students can choose from 5 instruments to start in 5th grade band. These are:

Flute



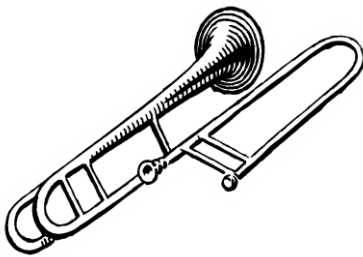
Clarinet



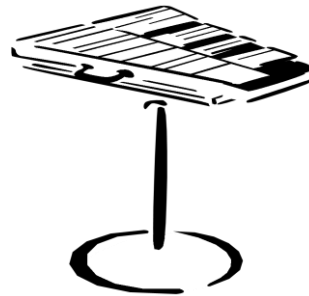
Trumpet



Trombone



and Percussion (Bell Kit)



Once you choose what instrument you will be playing, your family is required to rent or purchase one of these instruments, unless you already have one. If you already have one in your family, please be sure to make sure it is in good working order by taking it to one of the music stores listed on the next page to make sure it is working correctly. It is important that you have an instrument no later than **Tuesday, September 22nd**, since this will be the first day we will be using instruments in class.

If you are unsure which instrument to choose, we would ask that more of you try Flute or Trombone, since we generally do not have as many of these. This will make sure that we are balancing our band correctly, giving us the best sound possible. It is most important that you choose the instrument that you really like, so you will practice more often.

Where can I get an instrument?

There are a number of good places to go for instruments in the Lansing area. Below are a few that we would recommend.

Marshall Music Company
3240 E Saginaw St,
Lansing, MI
(517) 337-9700

Michigan Winds LLC
1880 Haslett Rd, #F,
East Lansing, MI
(517) 332-8729

Meridian Winds
2807 Jolly Rd
Okemos, MI
(517) 339-7333

These stores will have instruments for sale or rent, and they all have repair departments, which is important. There are also some places online that sell instruments that may give you a better price, but unfortunately may not have rental programs or repair departments. Here are some examples of these.

Wwbw.com (best brands)

Musiciansfriend.com

1800usaband.com (rentals, major brands)

It is a good idea to not get the instruments that you can purchase at a department store (such as Target, Meijer, Wal-Mart, etc.), since these stores do not have repair departments. These are often not of the same quality as those from a music store, which may make it more difficult to learn if it is not working properly.

BOOKS

You will also need a book for band. We will be using **“Do It! Play in Band”** book 1 by James O. Froseth. It is important that you get the right one for your instrument, so be sure to double check. We will NOT be using the workbooks we have used in the past. We will instead be giving each student a folder to keep worksheets that we will hand out once every two weeks. The students will also be keeping a **“practice diary”** in these folders. Studies have shown that playing every day is very important for the development of the muscles used to produce a quality sound for young players. The studies show that only 10 to 20 minutes of practice a day is all that is needed.

OPEN HOUSE

We will be having a band parent meeting at the end of the Waverly East Open House which starts at 6:00 on September 15, 2009. Marshall Music will be there with instruments to buy or rent as well as with books and other supplies for the instruments for your convenience.

CONCERTS

The 5th grade band will be performing three concerts this year.

Performance	Date	Time	Location
5 th Grade Informance	Tuesday, November 17 th	7:30	Waverly East Gym & Cafeteria
5 th and 6 th grade Winter Concert	Wednesday, February 10 th	7:30	Waverly HS Auditorium
5 th -8 th grade Spring Concert	Wednesday, May 12 th	7:30	Waverly HS Gymnasium

We ask that students dress nicely for these performances, wearing clothing like what they would wear to a wedding or church. We ask that they do not wear jeans, athletic shoes, or t-shirts with writing on them for the performances.

GRADING

Grades are determined mainly by classroom participation. In order for students to learn how to play correctly, it is important that they get the most out of the short time we have them in class every week. That is why it is extremely important that they remember to bring their instrument, folder, and book to class every Tuesday and Thursday.

Having your instrument with you is just the beginning. It is just as important that they participate fully while in class, paying attention to what we are asking them to do and doing their best every day. We will have homework assignments and practice diaries due every other week, as well as playing tests weekly. The playing tests are there to make sure the students are practicing at home what we are working on in class. Since we only see the students for a short time every week, it is important that they spend some quality time at home every night to strengthen their muscles used to play their instrument.

Concert attendance is of course very important as well. It is a shame for us to work hard to prepare for a performance and not have the chance to show what we have learned. Having someone missing on a concert will also change the way the entire band sounds, especially if there are not a lot of people in your section. Because of this, if you miss a concert without a good reason, your grade will drop by 20%. This will make a big difference in what grade you receive in band, so be sure to not miss a performance.

Band Boosters

The Band Boosters are an organization made up of band parents who provide support for the band classes. Specifically, they will be there at our concerts to help, they provide money for some instruments and equipment for all of the band classes, and they also pay for our end of the year parties, where they provide pizza and drinks for all of the 5th through 8th grade band students. They also oversee accounts set up in each student's name through the school into which money that students raise through fundraisers can be deposited to pay for later things such as Band Camps and Band Trips. If you are interested in helping, please go to waverlyband.org for information on fundraisers and accounts. The band boosters also send out a newsletter a few times a year by mail or email. Please see the last page of this packet to sign up for a newsletter.

(Return to Mr. Gorbe or Mr. Larzelere by September 15, 2009)

Name of Student _____ grade _____ date _____

1. I understand the importance of practicing my instrument and will ensure that the music I am responsible for will be properly prepared for rehearsal.
2. I will be on time for band and be prepared with my instrument, music and a pencil.
3. I will not chew gum during rehearsals. I understand that gum can damage my instrument, affect my embouchure, articulation and breathing and presents the risk of choking.
4. I will not talk during rehearsal. I understand that talking disturbs others, keeps the conductor from doing his/her job and prevents the band from becoming the very best.
5. I will label my instrument case with my name, address, and phone number. I will take care of my instrument, not allowing anyone else to play it and handle all musical instruments responsibly.
6. I understand that in order for the band to be the best it can be that I must cooperate, treat teachers and other students with respect and follow the rules set by Waverly East Intermediate.

We have seen and gone over together the following in this packet:

_____ Where can I get an Instrument?

_____ Books

_____ Open House

_____ Concerts

_____ Grading

_____ Band Boosters

Student's signature

Parent's signature

STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET

Student's name _____ grade _____

Parent's Names _____

Home address _____

Telephone Home _____

Cell _____

Other _____

Instrument student is most interested in playing this year:

(Circle one or more)

FLUTE

CLARINET

TRUMPET

TROMBONE

PERCUSSION

NEWSLETTER

_____ Please email the Band Booster Newsletter to the following email addresses:

EMAIL: _____

EMAIL: _____

_____ Please mail a printed copy of the Band Booster Newsletter to the following addresses:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____