

# JOIN BAND

WANT TO BE PART OF SOMETHING AMAZING?



## WHY PLAY IN THE BAND?

We have fun! On top of that, music programs help students do well at school in both academic and social areas. Besides the importance of learning the intrinsic value of music and developing fine motor skills, band teaches many life lessons. Students learn to be self-disciplined and confident. They learn to work well with others. Music can be that special thing that helps give them identity, and a good crowd to be a part of. All the way through high school and beyond, band is an active, hard-working, fun organization, where students can be with other students who share similar interests. The opportunities for success are endless.

## HOME PRACTICE

The establishment of regular practice habits is the greatest factor in determining a student's success and continuation in band. Parents are encouraged to help their children establish regular practice times and days to develop practice habits. Students practice more often and efficiently if they have a specific place to practice, free from distractions. Students are encouraged to practice each day, outside of class. We realize some weeks are busier than others so in those weeks (or sports seasons) practice what you are able. Practicing 10 minutes a day seven days a week is much better than practicing for 70 minutes one day. One thing to remember about practice is practice doesn't make perfect. There is no "perfect" in an art like music, but practice does make for success!

## INSTRUMENT SELECTION

The instrument choices for 5th grade band are flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, baritone, and percussion. Percussion requires a minimum of two years of piano lessons. Percussion instruments provide a big musical challenge that can be met most successfully with a previous piano background. Students choosing percussion will play bells for the first semester, and snare drum (along with other percussion instruments) will be introduced in the second semester. Students do not begin on saxophone. Saxophone players usually come from the clarinet section and must take a performance test on clarinet in the spring of the 5th grade year to determine their readiness to move to saxophone in 6th grade.

## MUSIC STORES

You can rent or purchase your instrument at the music store of your choice. Attached, you will find a list of area music stores and criteria for providing Shawnee Mission students with quality instruments and service. Many stores include up to four private lessons (at a discounted rate) with an instrument rental to get your student off to a good start. Please take advantage of this opportunity!

# GENERAL INFORMATION FOR CLASS

Students will always need their instrument, method book (Tradition of Excellence, Volume 1), and a pencil. A folding music stand is necessary for home practice and sometimes for concerts, but is not needed during class. **NOTE:** Band classes will begin the week of August 26th, but instruments will not be required until the following week.

Because elementary band classes are not daily events, students can occasionally find themselves forgetting to bring the instrument to school. If a student does forget to bring their instrument, they should still come to class. By coming to class, students can hear what the band is working on and have the opportunity to follow along with the other students playing, plus they will get the assignment for the next class.

The band will perform two or three concerts per year. The concert dates will be available on your school website! I will notify you via Skyward regarding concerts as well. How can parents help students be successful in band? Beyond establishing regular practice habits and possibly providing private lessons, be encouraging! Ask your child to perform concerts for the family! Note improvements, and be very proud!



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**MUSIC EXPRESSES  
THAT WHICH CANNOT  
BE SAID AND ON  
WHICH IT IS  
IMPOSSIBLE TO BE  
SILENT.  
- VICTOR HUGO**

## HOW DO WE JOIN?

There is an enrollment form online. Please visit the band website ([www.bandaides.org](http://www.bandaides.org)) and click on the heading for the Elementary Bands post and fill out the information requested from the link. When you submit the form, I will receive it in an email and add your student to the roster. If you do not have internet access, your child may pick up an enrollment form from the band director on the first day of class.

## INFORMATIONAL PARENT MEETING

### Monday, August 26th

Directors will be available from 6-8pm for students to try instruments and to answer individual questions. There will be an informational presentation (20 minutes) for all incoming 5th grade families starting at 6:30pm. This meeting is at 6:30pm in the band room at SMWest High School (85th & Antioch). Attendance is highly encouraged!



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