

Oswego School District #308  
Welcome to Beginning Band!

Goals of the Band Department

- Enrich student's lives through the understanding and study of music
- Help students realize a sense of pride in the work he or she produces through complete preparation and attention to directions
- Help students to develop self-control, discipline, and independence

Musical Goals

- Develop a characteristic tone
- Learn and demonstrate all of the fingerings within a basic range
- Read musical notation
- Recognize and produce basic rhythmic values
- Develop good technical habits

Beginning Band Curriculum

- Tone Production
- Scales
- Technique
- Intonation
- Musicality
- Performance
- Constructive Listening

The Goal of Instrument Selection

- Responsibility to the individual student~ Match each student with an instrument on which they will be successful!
- Responsibility to the entire group~ Develop a balanced instrumentation so that students have a good "band" experience.

How is an instrument selected?

- *Every student has an individual appointment!*
- *Every student has strengths which match an instrument.*
- Factors that help determine instrument selection~
  - Elementary School Music Aptitude Tests
  - Elementary School Music Teacher Recommendations and Assessment
  - Student's level of interest and commitment to improve.
  - Student's quality of school work.
  - Student's personal habits-organization, neatness, patience, etc.
  - Physical characteristics.
  - Ability to produce a quality sound on the instrument.
  - Interest in taking private lessons.

## Instrumental Goals

### Woodwinds:

- Flute-14
- Clarinet-24
- Alto Saxophone-8
- Oboe-4
- Bassoon-1

### Brass:

- Cornet-20
- Horn-8
- Trombone-15
- Baritone-5
- Tuba-3

Percussion-6 (piano experience required)

## **DON'T GET STUCK WITH A LEMON!**

- Many foreign made instruments are very inexpensive because they are made with:
  - Poor materials and soft metals
  - Inferior craftsmanship
  - Nonstandard parts
- They may also have problems with tuning and tone quality. Beginners will struggle with a poor quality instrument.
- Local music stores cannot due repairs because parts are not readily available.

## **Excellent Instrument Brands (Required)**

- Flute: Gemeinhardt or Yamaha
- Oboe: Selmer
- Clarinet: Accent, Buffet, Yamaha
- Saxophone: Yamaha, Selmer
- Cornet: Jupiter, Bach
- Horn: Holton Regency
- Trombone: Jupiter, Bach, Yamaha
- Baritone: Jupiter, Yamaha
- Tuba: Carnegie XL, Yamaha

## Percussion Equipment

- Student Xylophone
- Practice Drum Pad
- Required Sticks and Mallets
- A Fresh Approach to Snare Drum, Mark Wessels
- A Fresh Approach to Mallets, Mark Wessels

### Summer Band Classes

- July 25-August 17
- Monday-Friday
  - 8-8:45 am
  - 8:45-9:30 am
  - 9:30-10:15 am
  - 10:15-11:00 am
- TRAUGHBER J.H.S. MUSIC HALL
  - Door #4

### What About Extra Help?

- Students may also be paired with a coach during class sessions
- Coaches will reinforce the work done in the band classes

### Supplies Students Will Need

- High quality beginner-level instrument
- Folding music stand to use at home
- Required text: School Issued Work Book, 5 Minute Theory Workbook
- A pencil at EVERY band lesson and class
- PM Music Co. will be available at individual appointment times to answer questions and order supplies

### Band During the School Year

- Students are scheduled into band as part of their daily schedule
- Band meets for 40 minutes every day
- Students receive a grade for band and it is part of their grade point average
- Beginning Band will perform four concerts during the year and participate at the Oswego Band Festival and Solo Recital

### Common Questions

- If something isn't clear, please ask. We are here to help you!

### Why Band?

- Music power is brain power
- Music develops: problem solving skills, teamwork, goal-setting, self-expression, kinesthetic development, memory skills, self-confidence, concentration, and most of all...
- Music is a form of intelligence that all children should have access to!

### Will band interfere with student's grades in other classes?

- No!
- It has been found that students participating in school instrumental music programs generally average higher grades in other subjects.
-

Do students have to take private lessons?

- Students are not required to take private lessons, however, your child will experience much greater success and enjoyment with private study.
- It is the policy of the Junior High School Band programs that all students are strongly encouraged to take lessons.
- We offer a list of suitable teachers that work well with young students.

Can a student be in band and other activities?

- Yes! We work very hard to allow our students to be involved in as much as possible.
- Flexibility and compromise are key to success.
- Nearly all of our band students are involved in sports, drama or art, in addition to band.

What if we already have an instrument?

- Please bring your instrument to your child's appointment.
- We will inspect the instrument to make sure that it works correctly.
- Keep an open mind-your child may not be a match with the instrument that you already own.

If you have individual questions...

- Traugber JHS Band Director-Rachel Maxwell, 636-2721
- [rmaxwell0515@oswego308.org](mailto:rmaxwell0515@oswego308.org)