

WELCOME TO BEGINNING BAND!

Welcome to the beginning of what will be a fun and exciting musical journey! We are so excited that you and your fifth or sixth grader has decided to become a part of the band program at Spring Lake! The bands at Spring Lake have had a long tradition of excellence and we are glad you are now a part of that tradition as well!

Hopefully, the information in this packet will answer some of the questions you may have about beginning band such as: When are the concerts? What accessories should my student have? How much should students practice?

As you may be aware, fifth and sixth grade band are graded as a credit/no credit course at SLIS. We will be sending progress reports out at the end of the year, but if your child is having issues during the school year, we will make sure to email you and let you know. It is our goal to have excellent communication with you and we hope you communicate with us as well. If you ever have questions or would like contact information for private instructors to further your child's ability or help them catch up, feel free to send us an email or give us a call.

Also, don't forget our website at **www.springlakebands.org** Every handout (including this one) will be on there - along with concert call times, dress code, etc. It is a great resource to make sure you know what's going on! We will also be putting information on Schoology.

Thanks again and we're looking forward to what should be a GREAT year at Spring Lake!

Mr. Mark Grevengeod Mr. Mike Truskowski

COMMITMENT AND DEDICATION

Students in 5th and 6th grade band are expected to complete the entire school year in band. Dropping out after a few weeks is not an option and will not be allowed except at the discretion of the director. A beginning band student will experience difficulty at times when learning a new instrument, but the student must persevere. With practice and hard work a student can be successful on a band instrument.

With limited rehearsal time, it is imperative that students invest extra time in nurturing their talents and improving their skills. A regular practice time at home is essential to each student's development and success. Parents and students should set up a home practice schedule of about 10 minutes a few times a week so that the skills introduced in class may be reinforced and mastered. Parents are responsible for guiding their students to practice in the same manner they guide them to completing homework for other classes.

Thank you for supporting your child's desire to join the band. We are looking forward to them finding success and enjoyment as a member of the Spring Lake Band program.

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

December 6, 2021

7:00 PM

6th Grade Band and Middle School Bands High School Auditorium

February 15, 2022

7:00 PM

5th Grade Band and Middle School Bands High School Auditorium

March 13, 2022

FUNd Jam!

Afternoon

High School Gymnasium

May 10, 2022

6:30 PM

5th and 6th Grade Bands

(7th and 8th Grade bands follow at 7:30pm) High School Auditorium

ATTENDANCE

If a student forgets his/her instrument or if the instrument is in the shop, the student **is still required to attend band class**. If a student forgets repeatedly, a parent will be notified and disciplinary action may result. Forgotten instruments are usually an indicator of a lack of practice time.

The first day for Trumpet and Trombone is September 7. The first day for Flutes, Clarinets and Percussion is September 8. Those groups come to band every other day.

INSTRUMENTS, MUSIC, AND EQUIPMENT

Below is a list of the accessories needed for each instrument:

All 5th Grade Band students should have: *Sound Innovations : Book 1*

Flute - tuning/cleaning rod, swab (you can make your own, 2" by 8" thin cloth)

Clarinet - cork grease, cleaning swab, at least four working reeds.

Trumpet - valve oil, slide grease.

Trombone - spray water bottle, "superslick" slide cream

Percussion - snare drum sticks and keyboard mallets, stick bag

REEDS, MOUTHPIECES, OILS, AND CREAMS

Recommended reeds for woodwind players:

Clarinet - Vandoren, Mitchell Lurie *strength 2, 2.5

Recommended mouthpieces for brass players:

Trumpet - Bach 7C or 5C Trombone/Baritone - Bach 6 1/2 AL

INSTRUMENT REPAIR

If a student's instrument is in need of repair, please follow these guidelines:

1. Have one of the BAND DIRECTORS check the instrument. If the repair is minor, we can often fix it (for free).
2. If one of the band directors is unable to repair the instrument, parents should take the band instrument to the music store for repair.

When you take the instrument to the music store for repair:

--Get an estimate.

--Approve the repair by phone or in person.

--Make sure that the instrument will be repaired in a timely manner.