

WELCOME TO FIFTH GRADE BAND!

Welcome to the beginning of what will be a fun and exciting musical journey! We are so excited that you and your fifth grader have 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!

In this packet, we will try to answer some of the questions you may have about fifth grade band. When are the concerts? What accessories should I have? How much should I practice? Hopefully, this will answer all of those and provide a handy reference throughout the year.

As you may be aware, fifth grade band is graded as a pass/fail course at SLIS. Since we feel that you need more feedback than that on your child, look for "music progress reports" throughout the year. 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 want to know some names of 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, etc. It is a great resource to make sure you know what's going on!

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

Mr. Mark Grevenoged
Mr. Mike Truskowski

Contact Information

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COMMITMENT AND DEDICATION

Students in 5th grade band are expected to complete the entire school year in band. Dropping out after a few weeks or at semester 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.

Musical competence is the result of dedicated “time on task”. Music learning, music performance, and music appreciation are the outcomes of study, practice, and guided listening. 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 15 minutes or more, daily if possible, so that the skills introduced in class may be reinforced and mastered.

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

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

February 14, 2011

7:00 PM

5th Grade Band and High School Bands

May 9, 2011

7:00 PM

5th, 6th, 7th and 8th Grade Bands

All performances are in the High School Auditorium and are required.

ATTENDANCE

When a student’s instrument is in the shop for repair, he or she will still be required to come to band class.

If a student forgets his/her instrument, 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.

Flutes will come to band on Tuesday and Friday.

Clarinets will come to band on Wednesday and Friday.

Trumpets will come to band on Monday and Thursday.

Trombones will come to band on Monday and Thursday.

Percussion will come to band on Tuesday and Thursday.

INSTRUMENTS, MUSIC, AND EQUIPMENT

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

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

Flute	tuning/cleaning rod, swab (you can make your own, 2" by 8" cloth)
Clarinet	cork grease, cleaning swab, at least two working reeds.
Trumpet	valve oil, slide grease.
Trombone	spray water bottle, "superslick" slide cream
Percussion	snare drum sticks and keyboard mallets

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 ½ AL

Recommended types of accessories:

Trumpet Valve Oil - Al Cass Fast

Trumpet tuning slide - Schilke Slide Cream

Trombone Slide Cream - Superslick

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