

# 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!

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

As you may be aware, fifth grade band is graded as a credit/no credit course at SLIS. Since we feel that you need more feedback than that on your child, look for a "progress card" that will be in their band folder. Every time they have a playing test, we will be filling it out. 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](http://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!

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

Mr. Mark Grevengoed  
Mr. Mike Truskowski

## Contact Information

Mr. Grevengoed or Mr. Truskowski  
Spring Lake Intermediate School  
Phone: (616) 846-5502 x3419  
[mrevengoed@springlakeschools.org](mailto:mrevengoed@springlakeschools.org)  
[mtruskowski@springlakeschools.org](mailto:mtruskowski@springlakeschools.org)  
[www.springlakebands.org](http://www.springlakebands.org)  
[www.facebook.com/springlakebands](http://www.facebook.com/springlakebands)  
[www.twitter.com/springlakeband](http://www.twitter.com/springlakeband)

## **COMMITMENT AND DEDICATION**

Students in 5<sup>th</sup> 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 15 minutes or more, daily if possible, 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**

February 22, 2016

7:00 PM

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Band and Middle School Bands

May 16, 2016

6:30 PM

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Bands

(7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade bands follow at 7:30pm)

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

## **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 Flutes and Clarinets is September 21. The first day for Trumpet, Trombone and Percussion is September 22. Those groups come to band every other day.

## **INSTRUMENTS, MUSIC, AND EQUIPMENT**

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

All 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Band students should have: *Tradition of Excellence: Book 1*

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

A Smartmusic Subscription – [www.smartmusic.com](http://www.smartmusic.com) (optional, but encouraged)

## **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.