

Hello Sixth Grade Band Parents!

We are off to a good start with the 6th grade...it's a big group and there are a lot of great players in there! We thought we'd send out some information about the year.

1) Please make every effort to have instruments in class. I am emailing parents ASAP if something is forgotten. We understand that there are mix ups once in a while for each of us, but we can't have habitual forgetters in 6th grade. Please check the Schoology calendar if you're unsure if we have band or not.

2) We have three **required** concerts this year...**December 6** (Holiday Concert, 7pm, SLHS) **March 19** (FUNdJam!, afternoon, SLHS gym) and **May 9** (Spring Concert, 6:30pm, SLHS). Please get these in your calendars ASAP and notify us of any conflicts very early - often they can be worked out if we have advance notice. We need everyone at the concerts as we are a team (and a class...) where everyone is important.

3) We are still in book one. We will move to book two in January of 2023 but the school will be buying them in bulk and the cost to bring in will be \$9 (\$13 percussion). We will send an email when it's time to send in the money.

4) If your child is interested in switching to a specialty instrument, we will begin that process after the Christmas concert. For now they should be patient and work hard at their current instrument.

5) Practicing should be happening at home. If your child isn't playing at least 3-4 times a week at home (even 10 minutes is fine), then they will be falling behind. Please make sure they get the instruments out. Things go faster in 6th grade and playing at home is more important.

6) Percussion should bring books, mallets, sticks and drum pads everytime. Some students consistently forget their pad and others have lost their music and book. Everyone needs their own book and everyone needs to have a practice bell set at home. I thought this was clear in 5th grade but I guess some never got one...that explains why some are falling behind since they can't practice at home. They are rentable at Meyer Music.

That's all for now - let me know if you have questions or need a referral for a private instructor. That is strongly encouraged!