



Sterling Elementary

Beginning Band

5th and 6th Grade Band Program

at Sterling Elementary

Mrs. Hall, teacher

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“This course is open to all students who wish to learn to play a band instrument. Students will gain knowledge of and learn basic skills on band instruments as well as learn the general elements of music.”

(from the KPBSD Fine Arts Curriculum)

When does band meet? Band will meet from 12:30-1:00 every day. Students will be grouped by like instrument and attend either Monday, Wednesday and Friday or Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

What instruments can my child play? Trumpet, Baritone, Clarinet, Flute or percussion (which includes drums and bells; percussion students will be required to learn both.)

When does band start? Friday September 16th. Instruments will not be used until September 19th.

How do I get an instrument? Instruments can be purchased or rented through any music store. The two main band instrument specialist stores in the state are *Alaska Music & Sound* (also called the *Horn Doctor*) and *The Music Man*. This year we are fortunate to be working with a new shop on the Peninsula, Log Cabin Music, which has instruments to buy and offers repair services. See the attached flyer for more information.

Sterling has a *limited* collection of instruments which may be checked-out for the school year – we do not have enough instruments for every student.

What materials will my child need to be successful?

For TRUMPET/BARITONE students: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- instrument in good playing condition- <i>Accent on Achievement, Book I</i>- 1 small bottle of valve oil- 1 mouthpiece brush- 1 cleaning “snake”	For Flute students: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Instrument in good playing condition- <i>Accent on Achievement, Book I</i>- A cleaning rod and swab
For CLARINET/SAXOPHONE students: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- instrument in good playing condition- <i>Accent on Achievement, Book I</i>- A small box of reeds (Rico Royal or Vandoren, strength 2 or 2.5)- Cork grease- Clarinet swab	For Percussion Students: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Drum sticks and a drum pad- <i>Accent on Achievement, Book I</i>

And... **PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE!**

A Reminder:

Playing a musical instrument is hard and takes a lot of hard work just like any other class. There will be a light amount of homework and students will receive a grade. If you wish to be in band keep in mind that it is hard work and requires practice. Parents please remember it is easy for students to get discouraged when things get hard and your student will need your encouragement to keep working. Please consider listening to your child practice and consider helping them with their work.

Although this is an introductory program, band is still a commitment and a collective of all the parts. So if one member does not practice or drops the program, it effects the entire program. We do understand that it may not be “right” for everyone so we have devised a protocol if a parent wishes for a student to be dismissed from the band program. The parent must notify and attempt to remedy any situation that may lead to a student discontinuing the program at least two weeks before the end of a quarter. Program withdraw is allowed only at the end of a quarter. We ask no band member discontinue the program less than two weeks before a performance regardless of the timing within the quarter.