

# BEGINNING BAND

HEYWORTH ELEMENTARY



## WELCOME!

Welcome to 5th Grade Beginning Band! I am so excited to start the year with this wonderful group of musicians!

This brochure is designed to answer some of your questions about beginning band and to give you some helpful resources to use throughout the year. If you have any questions during the year, please do not hesitate to email me!

### What is Fifth Grade Band?

Fifth grade band is the first year of instrument study for many of our students. It is designed to give students a solid foundation of skills from which to move forward. I often tell students to think about when they began math class in Kindergarten. They began with the basics, not with calculus. The same happens with band.

Students will be asked to practice and perform simple songs (think "Hot Cross Buns") in order to learn the fingerings and notes for their instrument, as well as learning muscle control and finger/hand dexterity.

## Class Schedule

Your student will need to have their instrument at school on their assigned band days. Students may leave their instruments at school during the week, however, they are encouraged to take them home and practice. All instruments go home on Fridays.

Monday - Full Band

Tuesday - Percussion

Wednesday - Flute, Clarinet,  
Saxophone

Thursday - Horn, Trumpet,  
Trombone, Baritone

Friday - Full Band





## Required Dates

The students perform in two band concerts during the year. These are required, graded events.

Winter Concert - Wednesday,  
December 18th @ 7:00pm

Spring Concert - Sunday,  
April 28th @ 2:00pm

## Contact Info

Please contact me throughout the year as needed with questions or to tell me of your student's successes/struggles.

Email -  
[rackauskask@husd4.org](mailto:rackauskask@husd4.org)

Facebook -  
Heyworth District Bands

Website -  
[hornetmusic.weebly.com](http://hornetmusic.weebly.com)

# WHY BAND?

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Why Band?

*\*Music power is brain power \*Music develops: problem solving skills, teamwork, goal-setting, self-expression, kinesthetic development, memory skills, self-confidence, concentration, and most of all... \*Music is a form of intelligence that all children should have access to!*

### Will band interfere with student's grades in other classes?

*\*No! \*It has been found that students participating in school instrumental music programs generally average higher grades in other subjects.*

### Can a student be in band and other activities?

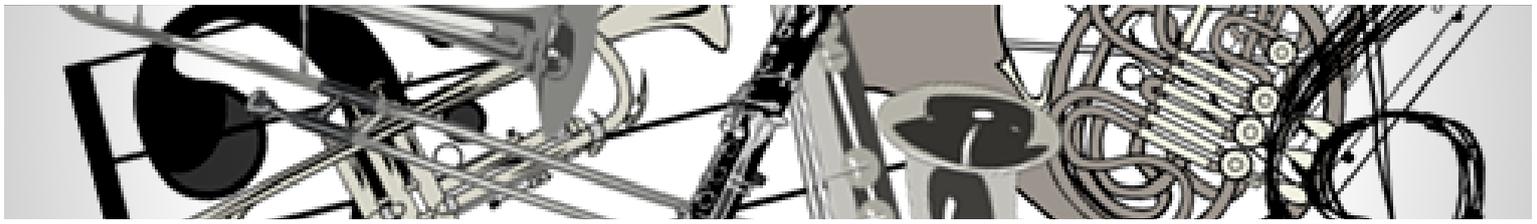
*\*Yes! \*We work very hard to allow our students to be involved in as much as possible. \*Flexibility and compromise are key to success. \*Nearly all of our band students are involved in sports, drama or art, in addition to band.*

### What if we already have an instrument?

*\*Please have The Music Shoppe inspect the instrument to make sure that it works correctly. \*Keep an open mind-your child may not be a match with the instrument that you already own.*

### My students are very busy after school, will band interfere with their schedules?

*\*No! \* Students will have specific skills to practice each week. Practice at home is critical for ensuring that they are developing the skills we are working on in class and retaining knowledge from one class to the next. We encourage students to practice this in several smaller sessions. \* There are two concerts during the year that are outside of normal school hours. The concert dates will be provided at the parent meeting.*



# PARENT HELP: SUPPORTING YOUR MUSICIAN

Congratulations! You have a child that wants to learn to play a musical instrument! This undertaking will likely present challenges and bring great rewards. As a parent, you want to help your child, but you may not know how to begin. Research shows that parent involvement and support is an important factor for students to be successful in their learning; you can help, even if you have never played a musical instrument yourself. You have already invested money renting or purchasing an instrument and supplies, what else can you do?

## **1. Help your child schedule practice. Make regular practice an expectation from the beginning. Don't ask your child "Did you practice?" instead ask "Have you practiced yet today?"**

We know that the brain learns best by practicing frequently for short amounts of time. Beginner players only need to practice assigned tasks for about 10 minutes, but they should do this work 6 times per week. As students gain skills and knowledge practice periods can be longer, and perhaps less frequent. Keep the focus not on how many minutes students are practicing, but what they are achieving. Can they perform their weekly goal? If yes, they have practiced enough, if no, keep working. If a student does not practice at home, they are missing the key element of independent learning. At school students are getting direct instruction and guided practice, but independent learning and problem solving is the goal for all of our learners. This learning happens when students successfully practice at home.

## **2. Help your child access resources to facilitate their independent learning. When he says "I don't know...", you can ask "How can we find out?"**

The method book contains all of the information students need to succeed with their goal. Fingering charts and concept explanations and be found in the book when students are working to recall the weekly lesson from school. The accompaniment CD or downloads from the link that accompany the book (Measures of Success) provides a model for students to listen to and practice with. When they are working on an exercise, they can listen to it, count and clap the rhythm, read and finger the notes, and finally play along with the recording. Parents can also use the program to listen to the model performance and determine whether or not what their student is playing matches. Encourage your child to explore other resources. Do you have a friend or family member who can help? Can you get information from Google or YouTube to help? Sending a question to Mrs. Rackauskas via email is also an option.

## **3. Encourage your child when they are frustrated, as well as celebrating success. This is not always easy. "Wow that sounds great! I am really hearing your improvement!" (Banishment to the garage to practice does not create positive reinforcement).**

Always look for (listen for) the good! In the beginning that may be difficult, but all sounds should be celebrated as progress and growth. Make sure all family members are speaking as positively as possible about those beginning sounds. Learning to play an instrument is "falling forward" we succeed and grow through our mistakes. When your child is experiencing frustration and getting discouraged, help them to work through those feelings. Persistence is an important life skill, music learning will reinforce this skill.

Finally, please let me know when frustration continues, or you feel your child needs more help. I want to provide as much support as possible to ensure your child's success. It is going to be a great year!

# BEGINNING BAND SUPPLY LIST

Below you will find a list of the required/suggested equipment for your students. This list includes the book that your student will need, instrument maintenance equipment, a recommended stand, and any reeds/mouthpieces they might require. I have also included a list of recommended instrument brands for each instrument. I am sure there are some reputable brands that are not on this list. However, if you are considering purchasing a brand that is not on this list, please check with me first (rackauskask@husd4.org). It is my goal for all students to be playing on a sound instrument that will allow them to be successful and stand up to daily use.

## ALL STUDENTS

Measures of Success Book #1 for your student's instrument  
Wire music stand for at-home practice  
1-inch binder with clear front pocket  
15 page protectors  
5 Dividers  
PENCIL

### FLUTE

**Recommended Brands:** Selmer, Jupiter, Yamaha  
**Supplies:** Swab

### OBOE

**Recommended Brands:** Yamaha or Fox  
**Reeds:** Cane – Medium Soft  
**Supplies:** Swab, Reed Guard

### CLARINET

**Recommended Brands:** Selmer, Yamaha, Buffet  
**Reeds:** Rico Royal or Vandoren Size 2  
**Supplies:** Swab, Reed Guard, Cork Grease

### ALTO SAXOPHONE

**Recommended Brands:** Selmer, Jupiter, Yamaha  
**Reeds:** Rico Royal or Vandoren Size 2  
**Supplies:** Swab, Reed Guard

### FRENCH HORN

**Recommended Brands:** Conn, Holton, Jupiter, Yamaha  
**Supplies:** Valve (Rotor) Oil, Slide Grease

### TRUMPET

**Recommended Brands:** Yamaha, Conn, Bach, Jupiter, Eastman  
**Supplies:** Blue Juice Valve Oil, Slide Grease

### TROMBONE

**Recommended Brands:** Yamaha, Bach, Conn-Selmer, Jupiter  
**Supplies:** Slide-o-mix or Trombotine

### EUPHONIUM/BARITONE

**Recommended Brands:** Jupiter, Yamaha  
**Supplies:** Blue Juice Valve Oil, Slide Grease

### PERCUSSION

**Recommended Brands:** Pearl, Vic Firth, Yamaha  
**Supplies:** Bell Kit and Snare Drum, Drum Pad, snare sticks, bell mallets