

Beginning Band Handbook



Triway Local Schools
5th Grade Beginning Band Meeting
Monday, September 22nd, 2014

SECURING A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT

RENT: DO NOT BUY – The first two months are only a trial period. There are several music dealers in the area that rent band instruments. After two months the students will be assessed to determine whether or not they stay in band.

ONLINE SHOPPING – If you choose to shop online, before bidding or buying, print out all of the information about the instrument and we will be happy to dig around and let you know if it is a good deal. What they say you are getting and what you end up with has been a problem.

DISCOUNT STORES: K-Mart, Wal-Mart, Sears, and JC Penney are not music stores. These instruments look good, but they are not a quality sounding musical instrument. These are really cheap instruments that many parents mistakenly get thinking they have saved a lot of money. They are also not made according to industry standards; which means that the instrument repair technicians cannot fix them. If it is purple, green, red, or blue do not purchase the product. We **DO NOT ALLOW** these colored instruments in our program. We are providing a list of quality instrument brands. Please refer to this list if you choose to get an instrument on your own.

Select from these brands (not in any particular order):

FLUTE

Armstrong
Artley
Selmer
Gemeinhart
Yamaha
Jupiter

CLARINET

Selmer
Bundy
Conn
Evette
LaBlanc
Vito
Yamaha
Jupiter

SAXOPHONE

Bundy
King
Conn
Holton
Vito
Yamaha
Jupiter
Selmer

BRASS

Bach
Conn
Getzen
Holton
King
Yamaha
Jupiter

PERCUSSION: Ludwig, Pearl, Premier, Slingerland, Yamaha

Beginning percussionists will study both mallet and rudiment playing beginning with a set of bells and practice pad. Students need to rent a kit that includes bells, practice pad, stand, sticks, mallets, and a method book.

What if I already have an instrument?

If you have an older instrument at home that your student will be using, please have the instrument checked for needed repairs at an area music dealer before your child's first music lesson is scheduled to begin. Repairs, if needed, should be made before the start of band class.

STARTING DATES FOR THE PROGRAM ARE AS FOLLOWS:

SHREVE
Thursday, September 25th

FRANKLIN TWP.
Friday, September 26th

WOOSTER TWP.
Monday, September 29th

****All students need to have an instrument secured by the week of **October 6th** if they wish to continue in band. If students do not have an instrument by this date they have already missed the first few lessons, which are crucial to their success!

METHOD BOOK:

All students will need a copy of "Standard of Excellence-Book 1" (Red Cover) for their instrument. The students will use this book in 5th and 6th grade to learn the fundamentals of playing their instrument. To purchase a copy of this book please visit your local music store.

INSURANCE:

You may wish (and it is suggested) that insurance be carried on privately owned instruments. This can be done as a rider on your household insurance. Be sure to report the brand name, model, serial number, and price or replacement cost. There is no insurance provided by the school for privately owned instruments, even when used and transported by the school.

How To Help Your Student Improve:

Your child is presently entering a trial period for playing a musical instrument. Their success is dependent upon their attitude, attention to class instruction, concentration, and effort. There are several ways that you can help, even if you are not a musician yourself. Please take an active role by encouraging your child. Just as children must be reminded to brush their teeth and do their homework, they must be reminded and encouraged to practice. The first few months are extremely important to ensure a successful start. (Hang in there! Those strange sounds will soon be music!) What can you do? The following items will aid your child greatly:

1. Be interested in their daily progress. Students should practice at least 90 minutes a week. However you choose to divide up the 90 minutes is up to each family's individual schedules.
2. Develop a schedule for daily practice and encourage your child to practice! Students will either write their weekly assignment in the front of their book or be given a practice slip with the assignment listed on it. Please check to make sure your student is actually practicing the assigned material. When exercises are assigned in the book the students are required to write in the measure numbers for each exercise. This helps make rehearsal times more efficient.
3. Select a practice area that is as private as possible. Do not permit interruptions. Have good lighting and either a music stand or a good place to prop up the practice book. Inexpensive folding music stands can be purchased at any music store.
4. Help your child remember their instrument on band day. All equipment is needed on class lesson days if the lesson is to be successful. This consists of the instrument, music book, any sheet music given, and in the case of clarinets and saxophones, at least one extra reed. Students are given a grade based on their preparedness and if they have remembered all their equipment. If students are habitually forgetting their instruments (more than three times a grading period) it is possible that they will be dismissed from the band program.

Parents can also help by attending concerts, by encouraging home performances, and by helping the student understand that the more he or she practices, the more success and enjoyment will be experienced.



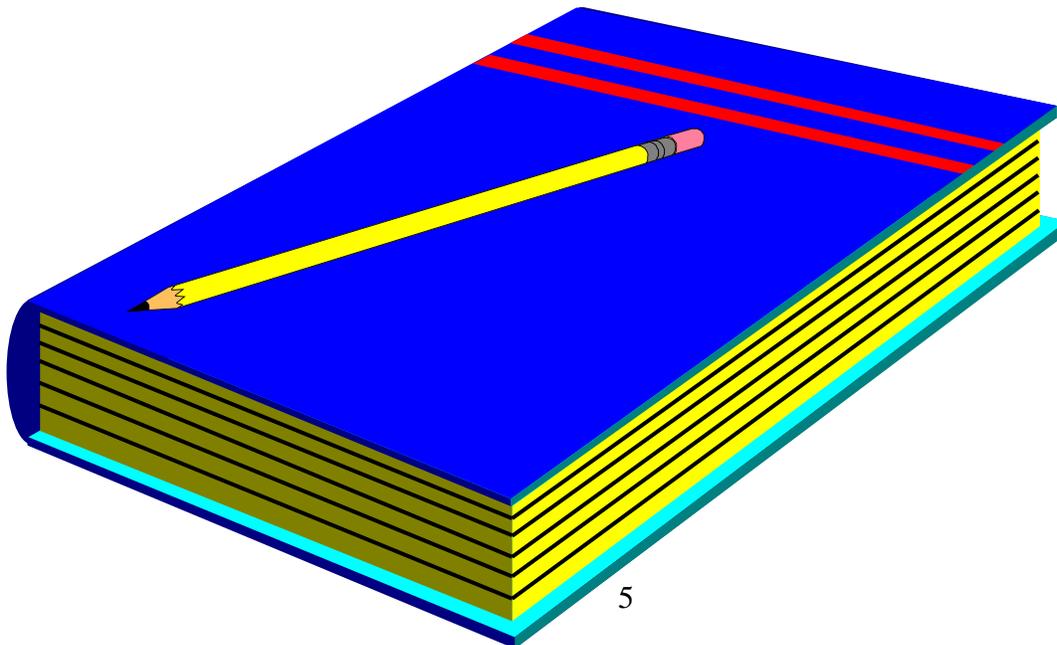
TRIWAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC POLICY

It is recognized that instrumental music may be selected as an option for fifth and sixth grade students. Due to scheduling, it is necessary to have students removed from class to meet for band and individual lessons. Extra effort is required of the student to make sure any work missed during lessons or band is complete. Students are required to make up any missed schoolwork. Band is not an excuse to not do your work!

If a student is receiving a course grade of two or more “D’s” or an “F” in any of the major subjects (Math, Language Arts, Social Studies, and Science) they will be ineligible for band class that week. Eligibility for band will be on a weekly basis. Reinstatement in band is dependent upon passing grades. If a student misses 3 or more lessons/band rehearsals a grading period as a result of ineligibility they will no longer be in the band. We need dedicated and motivated students!

Attendance is essential. If a student misses their lesson/ band or does not bring their instrument 3 or more times in a grading period, then they will no longer be in band. Excused absences do not count towards the 3 times. Please provide a written parent/guardian note if missing band for some reason (medical, instrument being repaired, etc...)

It is recognized that a cooperative effort between the music instructor, classroom teacher, parent, and school administration is essential to determine what is best for the student.



Grading Rubric and Scale

Remembering instrument.....	5 points per week
Remembering book and music.....	5 points per week
Participation in lesson.....	5 points per week
Participation in full band.....	5 points per week
Positive Attitude.....	5 points per week
Preparedness.....	5 points per week
Playing tests.....	10 points
School day dress rehearsals.....	10 points
After school dress rehearsal.....	25 points
All concerts.....	50 points

*At the end of a grading period, your total points will be divided by the total possible points. I will take that percentage and apply it to the following grading scale:

92-100%.....	O
85-91%.....	S+
75-84%.....	S
70-74%.....	N
Below 70%.....	U

~Sixth graders receive a grade in band for the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th nine weeks. Fifth graders receive a grade in band for the 3rd and 4th nine weeks.



Did You Know We Have A Website???

Triway Music has an awesome site that allows the directors to communicate with parents/guardians. The site is www.triwaymusic.com. This site allows you to check upcoming dates and view the elementary band calendar of events for each school. Another awesome feature of this site is that it allows the directors to send out text and e-mail reminders to people who are registered. I highly encourage every family to register on the site for these updates!!! To register you simply click on the register tab along the top of the home page. This will direct you to a page that allows you to register for e-mail alerts, text alerts, or both!!! You are able to unsubscribe from this feature at any time. The website also provides a direct link to my e-mail in case you ever need to get in touch with me. Under the band tab you will see a picture of Mr. John Puster on the left and a picture of me on the right. Underneath my picture is a link to send me an e-mail. Since I travel to all three elementary schools and the high school, it is easiest to reach me via e-mail. Please feel free to e-mail me any time you have a question or concern.

Music Boosters

Please consider becoming involved in the Triway Music Boosters. We are always looking for parents with great ideas and/or the willingness to help. Booster meetings take place the fourth Tuesday of every month of the school year (except December) in the high school music room, at 7:00pm. Booster meetings and upcoming events are listed on

Triway Elementary Music 5th Grade Band Calendar of Events 2014-2015

Monday, March 9th

All-Triway Rehearsal- Fisher Auditorium- 5th grade from 6:00-7:00 and 6th grade from 7:00-8:00 (please arrive ten minutes before scheduled rehearsal time so we can begin promptly) **no need to dress up**

Tuesday, March 10th

All-Triway Band Concert- Fisher Auditorium at 7:00pm (please have students there by 6:40 to allow time to warm-up)

Thursday, March 17th

Wooster Township 5th and 6th Grade Band and Choir Concert- W.T. Gym at 7:30pm
(please have students there by 7:10pm to allow time to warm-up)

Tuesday, March 19th

Shreve 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Grade Program with 5th Grade Band- Shreve Gym at 7:00pm (please have students there by 6:40pm to allow time to warm-up)

Tuesday, March 24th

Franklin Township 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Grade Program with 5th Grade Band- F.T. Gym at 7:00pm (please have

students there by 6:40pm to allow
time to warm-up)

**For all concerts, please have students dress in school appropriate dress clothes.
Please no
jeans, t-shirts, or tennis shoes if at all possible.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON THE CARE OF YOUR INSTRUMENT PLEASE READ AND FOLLOW THROUGH

FLUTE:

This is a very delicate instrument, DO NOT attempt to repair anything at all. DO NOT FORCE any joints together. Be sure to wipe out the flute after playing. The flute should come with a cleaning rod in the case. It is best to use a handkerchief and the rod to wipe out all three parts of the flute. DO NOT use paper towels as they tend to get stuck in the flute and are difficult to get out. The flute is not a waterproof instrument and you should avoid situations that would allow the flute to get wet.

CLARINET/SAXOPHONE/OBOE:

You must have cork grease. On the **saxophone**, grease is applied only on the cork next to the mouthpiece. On the **clarinet**, grease is applied to all four joint corks. On the **oboe**, grease is applied to the two joint corks. For all woodwinds, you must have a swab, which is used inside of the instrument to wipe out all of the moisture that gathers in it when the instrument is played. Swab your instrument EACH time you finish playing.

Keep your mouthpiece clean. This is the only part of your instrument that can be washed. NO HOT WATER only lukewarm water. Do not use water on any part of your instrument.

DO NOT DROP YOUR MOUTHPIECE – AS IT BREAKS EASILY

Always have a good, clean playable reed – an extra one if possible.

Reed strength - # 2 ½

CORNET/TRUMPET/TROMBONE/BARITONE:

MOUTHPIECE – Never force into horn. If it gets stuck into the horn bring the horn to your music teacher for removal. If your teacher cannot remove the

mouthpiece, you will have to take it to the music store. You will **damage** your horn if you or your parents try to remove the mouthpiece.

OILING: - Use only special oil that is made for instrument valves and slides. No other kinds of oil- you may ruin your instrument if you use the wrong kind of oil. These special oils can be purchased at a music store.

CORNET/TRUMPET/BARITONE VALVES:

Oil only one valve at a time, your teacher will show you how to do so and how to insert the valve properly. If you try to oil more than one valve at a time you may get the valves confused and not know which valve went where. Add a few drops of oil to each valve not less than once every week. **PLEASE DO NOT USE TOO MUCH OIL.**

TROMBONE:

For trombone, use a few drops of oil on the main slide each day. Once a week, clean off old oil with a soft cloth and add new oil. Be very careful with the slide, do not bump it against anything, it can dent very easily and become a serious repair problem.

ALL BRASS:

Be sure to empty out your spit valves after each time playing. If they are not emptied out the instrument will have a bubbly sound and cause wear on the instrument.

FOR ALL INSTRUMENTS:

Wipe your horn very carefully every day. Remove all perspiration and fingerprints. Keep your case clean and free of all books and objects that may damage your horn. Remember that you are responsible for all repairs.

****Your instrument is like a fine watch. **DO NOT** try to take it apart or repair it. If you think your instrument is in need of repair let your band teacher check it first before you take it to a repair shop.

We hope this handout provided you with enough information to assist you in your search. We are here to help you through this process and to make the best possible experience for your child. Since we are not in every building every day, it is best to reach us via e-mail. We are able to respond quicker to e-mail than a phone call to the school! Our e-mail addresses are: trwy_mdonnely@tccsa.net or trwy_puster@tccsa.net. Thanks!