

Kraxberger Middle School
2017-2018

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Welcome to band! This is the perfect place to develop musical, social, and academic skills. I promise to work hard for all my students and I expect that they will do the same for each other. This will be a really fun year if we all come ready to do our best. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at any time in the year. I am **always** willing to help a student when they come to me.

Financial Burdens Band: *A student will never be excluded from band due to financial hardship.* If necessary, we will provide all of the necessary materials for students to participate in band. This includes instruments. This is only possible when families who *can* afford to purchase or rent the necessary materials due so. Potential financial burdens may include, but are not limited to: purchasing/renting an instrument, repairs, appropriate performance attire, reeds, method books, trip costs, food during trips, and a Jazz Band participation fee.

Contact and meetings:

Please have a parent or guardian contact me by phone or email. Since Mr. Arnold teaches at two schools, **email** is the most reliable way to get a quick response. Students can meet with him after school most days.

Course Descriptions:

Beginning Band is open to all students. No previous music experience is required. If your student does have experience, Mr. Arnold needs to be aware of it. Students will learn playing techniques such as embouchure formation, correction posture and hand position, and correct use of air. Students will learn the basics of music notation and theory. Students will perform in public concerts. Students will begin to develop skills in listening to, writing about, and discussing music.

Intermediate Band is open to students who have successfully completed Beginning Band or a comparable program at another school. Enrollment will be contingent on rehearsal etiquette and general effort displayed in the Beginning Band. Students will continue to refine their embouchures and use of air. Students will develop more advanced playing techniques such as rubato, vibrato, alternate fingerings, and playing in more difficult keys. Students will also rehearse and perform more challenging music. Students will continue to develop writing, listening, and discussion skills related to music. Students will perform in a series of public concerts.

Advanced Band is the most demanding of the bands. Students should have a clear concept of sound (what their instruments *should* sound like) and how to do their best to create that sound (embouchure, equipment upkeep, and air use). Students will play highly respected literature. Students will be highly qualified to critically listen to, write about, and discuss music. Students will perform in a series of public concerts.

Jazz Band is an after school band program that will provide an extra challenge for students particular dedicated to band. They will learn about other genres of music and perform in extra concerts/festivals. This group is open to 7th/8th grade students and 6th graders with prior experience. Guitar, piano, and bass players with prior experience are encouraged to join. There is a fee to enroll in this class, but the cost has yet to be determined.

Course Content & Objectives:

The mission of the Kraxberger Middle School Band program is to help students develop musical expressiveness, musical technique, and the ability to deeply listen, discuss, and write about music.

Each band will perform a series of public concerts.

Class Materials: Bring the following items to EVERY rehearsal.

- Your instrument;
- Reed/mouthpiece, cleaning rod, valve/slide oil, water for soaking reeds;
- Music folder, assigned sheet music, assigned method book
- Sharpened pencil

All students must have a copy of Essential Elements for their instrument. Beginning band students will use book one, intermediate band and advanced band students will use book two. Please purchase a copy at the beginning of school through Wally's Music Shop or another music dealer, or online. Required items will be available for purchase at Instrument Rental Night on Friday September 8th from 6:00pm to 7:30pm.

Instruments: Wally's will come to the Kraxberger cafeteria on Friday the 8th of September from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. Here, we will help your student try out some instruments. They can take their horn home that very night. You can also purchase the other necessary materials. **Your student is required to have their instruments and materials by Monday the 11th.**

Assignments:

Daily grades- Professional participation, material readiness (pencil, instrument, and music).

Listening Assignments- Will be completed in class. Students who miss class can make the assignment up through Google Classroom.

Mini Performances- Students will perform snapshots of our music in class. Sometimes it will be in groups. Students cannot move on to the next test until they have completed the previous test.

Music Theory Exercises- These will be completed in class.

Practice Logs- Practice logs will be the "A" grade for your students. In order for your student to receive higher than an "B" they will need to complete all of their practice logs at home. This currently only applies to Beginning Band students.

Grading Policy:

Mini Performances, Concerts - 75%

Daily Grades, Practice Logs, Music Theory Exercises - 25%

Concerts:

Concert attendance is mandatory for all students! Music is a performance art. These concerts are not only a learning experience, they are a chance for the bands to show the community some of the things they have learned in class. **Sports, clubs, hunting trips, vacations, etc are not valid reasons for missing a concert.**

If a student will be unable to attend a concert, that student's parents must send a written note to Mr. Arnold at least **three weeks** prior to the concert. In the case of an emergency,

parents should leave a message for Mr. Arnold at the middle school ((503) 655-3636 ext 536). Parent calls will be accepted. Even in the event of an emergency, it is very important that Mr. Arnold is made aware of the student's absence BEFORE the concert. Ideally, this would be as much ahead of time as possible.

Not having a ride is not a valid excuse for missing a concert. Parents, if you cannot bring your child to a concert, please contact Mr. Arnold as soon as possible to arrange a carpool with another family. Unexcused absences cannot be made up. See below for the concert dates.

A professional and unified dress is important to creating an authentic, traditional musical performance.

~~~~Absolutely NO jeans, tennis shoes, or white socks!~~~~

Please have your student dressed as formally as possible in white and black. If you can avoid denim, please do so. Otherwise, black jeans are okay. Black dress shoes, please. Converse shoes have white, but are allowed if that is the only option. The idea is that students look professional, clean, and uniform. **Arms, chest, and legs must be covered appropriately.** Dresses must go past your student's knees. Your student will be representing the school and the band so please dress within school limitations. Students failing to do so will not be allowed to perform and will lose credit for the performance.

**If you are unable to acquire the appropriate clothing,** please contact Mr. Arnold.

**Concert dates:**

Winter Concert **12/12 @ GHS**

(7th and 8th Grade) JWE Performance **1/30** (during the day) @ JWE

Warner Pacific MS Band Festival **2/23**

Nearly Spring Concert (with choir) **3/8 @ WLK**

(8th grade) OSU MS Band Festival **4/19, 4/20**

(8th grade) Baker Prairie Festival **4/24**

All District Concert (with all schools' bands and choirs) **5/17 @ GHS**

Final Spring Concert **5/30 @ GHS**

Eighth grade students will perform at the eighth grade graduation in June

**Instrument choice:** (Beginning Band only) It is beneficial for students to start out on one of five instruments (clarinet, flute, trumpet, percussion, or trombone). From here, students who show dedication and skill may qualify to move on to a different instrument of their choice. Students who wish to play percussion will play mallet percussion until the first concert. After they are proficient at mallet percussion, they will add snare and auxiliary percussion. Percussion students will be held to a high standard of behavior. Playing in that section requires a great amount of focus, patience, and work. Students wishing to play an instrument other than the main five should be aware of this chart. If you wanted to play oboe for example, Mr. Arnold asks that you start on flute and switch to oboe after the foundations of music have been established.

|           |                            |             |          |
|-----------|----------------------------|-------------|----------|
| Flute     | Clarinet                   | Trumpet     | Trombone |
| Saxophone | Saxophone                  | Baritone    | Baritone |
| Oboe      | Oboe                       | French Horn | Tuba     |
| (Bassoon) | Bass Clarinet<br>(Bassoon) | Tuba        | Bassoon  |

**Getting your instrument:**

*Path #1:* It is best for the student to “rent to own” their instrument. This way, each payment for rental goes towards actually owning the instrument. Wally’s is the most convenient place to do this. They offer competitive payment plans, quality instruments, and onsite repair. **Do not attempt to purchase an instrument from the internet or a “Super Store” just because the price looks good.** There are scams, fake instrument, knock off instruments, and other traps out there that can end up costing you more money down the road. Wally’s will give a free appraisal of any instrument you bring in. If your family can’t afford to pay the \$15 to \$30 monthly payment, please see Path #2.

*Path #2:* Students can also “borrow” an instrument through the school if finances are an issue, although instruments are limited and of lesser quality. At this point, it looks like some students will be sharing school instruments between classes due to high demand. It is my personal philosophy that every student should be able to participate in band so **if money is an issue we will get your student involved.** Parents must fill out all of the information at the end of the syllabus before their student will receive an instrument.

**Parents and Practice:** Every student will need to practice outside of class in order to be successful. This will look different for every family. Students can always stay after school to practice in the band room. You should see the instrument at home at 1-3 days every week. It’s a good idea to set aside particular days and times where your student will practice whatever is going on in class. There will always be an upcoming mini performance to work on.

**Classroom Rules:**

**Be Responsible-** Bring your instrument, pencil, and Essential Elements Book to class every day. Do your best and keep trying even when things are tough.

**Be Respectful-** Do not use put-downs. Only touch your own instrument. Be nice to everyone around you even if you don’t feel good or if “they started it.”

**Be Safe-** Don’t run or horse around in the band room. Follow directions at all times. Treat the lockers, posters, and instruments with respect.

**Consequences:**

Students who are not responsible, respectful, or safe will have their grades lowered. A conference with Mr. Arnold and the student will occur if the problem continues. Phone calls home will be made to solve behavioral issues early. If necessary, students will meet with admin. In extreme situations, students will be removed from band. For any reason the band director deems necessary, students may be held from concerts or removed from the class.

**Performance etiquette:** It is expected that your family, guests, and your student will not talk while students are performing on stage. Phones should be silenced. Students will not sit with their parents after they have performed (unless it is to keep them from talking). Mr. Arnold has stopped mid-performance to remind the audience of this. Model the behavior you want from your students.

**Parent Involvement:** If you are interested in contributing to the band program, there are some things you can do. First, donating any formal attire always helps with families who cannot afford new clothes for their student. A family can also donate instruments. Cash/check donations can also be accepted. Parents will be asked to volunteer throughout the year, if possible please

consider helping out. Help before concerts is also appreciated. We will need chaperones for band trips. Email Mr. Arnold at [Arnolds@Gladstone.k12.or.us](mailto:Arnolds@Gladstone.k12.or.us) if you'd like to be of assistance.

### **"Borrowing" Contract:**

All students who use a school instrument will agree to have repairs (if needed during the year) done at Wally's Music Shop on their own time and money. Contact Mr. Arnold if that is a problem. This is so that students in the future can also play these instruments. Parents will not attempt to repair instruments and may be held responsible for damages incurred if repairs are attempted. Wally's does a quality job with repairs and their pricing is fair. Instruments are due back before school ends. Students who wish to rent their instruments during the summer will have to agree to a separate contract.

Families will be billed for instruments that are lost or stolen. This happens when students leave their instrument unattended outside of the band room. Instruments should be kept in their *band* locker or a safe place at home. Instruments stolen or lost *outside of the band room* will be the responsibility of the student's family. This includes your car. It also includes other locations in the school (outside of classrooms, in the hallway, in the locker room, in front of the office, etc.) *Instruments are not cheap. They are worth anywhere between \$500 and \$6,000! Sometimes even more. It should be noted that the majority of instruments owned by the school are worth less than 1,000\$.*

\*\*\*\*\*Families will be billed for school instruments that are damaged beyond "normal wear and tear." This is ultimately up to the discretion of the band director, although here are some basic guidelines for defining "major damage" and "normal wear and tear."

#### Major damage

- Cracked/broken main joint pieces
- Moving parts damaged to the point of being immovable without force (trombone slides, stuck valves, woodwind keys, etc)
- Dents/warpings larger than a square inch
- Holes in instruments
- Disconnected soldering

#### Normal wear and tear:

- Trombone slides slightly out of alignment (but still movable with proper lubrication)
- Disintegrating cork (clarinets)
- Dents smaller than one square inch (brass instruments)
- Leaky or rotten pads (flute, clarinet, saxophone, etc)

Please encourage your student to take care of their instrument and enforce this at home. If instruments are treated with respect, there won't be any problems. Instruments should never

be left unattended unless in a safe place at home or in their band locker. These instruments have many small, delicate, moving parts that can be damaged by forcing foreign objects (music etc.) into the case, dropping the instrument, roughly handling the instrument, and not maintaining the instrument. Woodwind players should be swabbing out their instrument after every use. Brass instruments should be applying valve/slide oil once a week. Students will be taught how to do these things during class. AT NO TIME SHOULD STUDENTS BE CHEWING GUM, DRINKING ANYTHING BUT WATER, OR EATING FOOD BEFORE/DURING PLAYING. This will damage the instrument and potentially harm the student. Have them brush their teeth if they want to play immediately after eating, drinking, or chewing gum. Help us prevent the spread of mold.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print, then sign below)

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print, then sign below)

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street, City, State, Zip code)

Home/Cell Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument Type: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Example: Trombone, Trumpet, etc.)

\*\*\*\*\*Again, families will be billed for school instruments that are damaged beyond “normal wear and tear.” This is ultimately up to the discretion of the band director. If the instrument is stolen or lost, the family will be responsible for paying for the value of the instrument deemed by the band director. **This can be far and above 500\$ depending on the instrument.**

Your student cannot rent an instrument through the school without turning this contract in to me.

**My parent or guardian has looked at the potential dates for the concerts and will let Mr. Arnold know if there are any conflicts.**

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_

Rip off this last page and turn it into Mr. Arnold. It is for a grade. Keep the rest of syllabus for reference.