

Magnolia School District Band Parent/Student Handbook



WELCOME TO THE MAGNOLIA SCHOOL DISTRICT BEGINNING INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM!

Dear Music Student and Supporting Parents:

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the students and parents to our wonderful band program in Magnolia School District! I hope that you are ready for a fun-filled musical experience this year. It is my hope over the next year to foster and develop your interest in music.

Music is an integral part of a well-rounded educational program. It has a long track record for building self-discipline and integrity, while also providing unique opportunities for self-expression and creativity. Music represents a discipline equal to any other academic area and is an intrinsic part of life, able to be enjoyed and appreciated by all. I congratulate you, the student, for making this commitment and thank you, the parents, for your support in this endeavor.

The main purpose of this handbook is to keep students and parents informed about the many activities involved with our band program. Being involved in band is a group effort and each individual is very important to the total outcome.

The following information is contained in this packet and should answer any questions you might have:

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COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

This class requires no previous experience and will focus on the basics of playing an instrument properly. Beginning classes culminate their instruction with 1-2 formal concerts. Rehearsals will take place after school from 3:30 PM to 4:30 in the band room at Maxwell Elementary School. Attending every rehearsal, combined with regular home practice, is essential for learning how to play your new instrument. An event calendar will be sent home with specific dates and times for each event.

REQUIRED PERFORMANCE UNIFORM

Keeping with the school uniform policy all Beginning Band students are required to provide a proper uniform for all performances. It is very important that each group looks well-dressed and groomed at each performance to give the performance a professional touch. If a student arrives for a performance in inappropriate attire, he/she may not be permitted to perform at the event. Looks count as much as the playing does! Students will need to provide the following clothing as their performance uniform for the year:

1. Nice black pants or skirts (docked style, dress pants, very black jeans, no shorts)

2. Close toed shoes
3. A solid white polo shirt

GETTING AN INSTRUMENT TO PLAY FOR CLASS

There are **3 WAYS** in which a student can get a band instrument for class:

1. Already have an instrument at home
2. Rent one from a local music store (SEE LIST on Page 8)
3. Use a Magnolia School District owned instrument

MSD has a wide variety of band instruments for student use, but keep in mind that MSD has a limited amount of instruments (approximately 80) and a large population of students (100). You may not be guaranteed your first choice of instrument and/or you may need to get an instrument on your own. Filling out and signing an agreement contract between the students, the parent and MSD will issue a school instrument for the year. See individual contract for further information when sent home with the student. If a student leaves MSD, the instrument will need to be checked out with the band teacher before leaving the school.

The only instruments that will be used in Beginning Band are:
Flute, clarinet, trumpet, and trombone.

CLASSROOM MATERIALS

In order for a student to be successful in class the following materials are recommended for use on a daily basis:

- Instrument supplies and cleaning materials if you purchase/rent your own instrument
- Band Method Book and sheet music (must bring both to each rehearsal)

Students are encouraged to purchase their own Band Method Book to keep.

DEPARTMENT POLICIES

1. Attendance at all performances and after school rehearsals is required. Performances and rehearsals are a major activity and will help students master their instruments more quickly.
2. Students are excused from performances and after school rehearsals due to **family emergency, illness, or religious commitments ONLY!** A parental note

should be given to the director well in advance of a performance or rehearsal. In the case of illness or sudden emergency and the student will be absent from a rehearsal or performances please call the school phone at **714-527-2217** or email janthony@magnoliasd.org and jatchue@magnoliasd.org.

3. Dental and doctor appointments, are **NOT EXCUSES** for missing after school rehearsals and performances. Please schedule appointments so that they do not conflict with these events. See the band calendar for specific events and dates. Communication with the teacher is the key!

4. **Failure to attend a performance or rehearsal without a legitimate excuse may result in removal from the program or a future event. Due to the performance nature of these groups, it will not be possible to make up missed rehearsals and performances. This is a very serious matter!**

5. If a student misses one rehearsal without a legitimate excuse they have then lost the privilege to perform. It is very important to the group's sound that every member is present for all rehearsals. If a student has two or more unexcused absences, a student from the "wait list" will be contacted. In order to sustain the integrity of the program, "wait list" students will only be contacted within the first two to three weeks of the start of the band season.

6. Each student is expected to prepare the music selected for each performance by practicing at home. Any student who does not meet the performance standards will not be able to perform. Performance tests will be given prior to each event. If a student does not pass the performance task, the student may lose the privilege to perform. Once again, the group's total sound depends on the performance of each individual.

7. Students' everyday behavior on and off-campus, with or without the Instrumental Music Department, must appropriately represent the Magnolia School District. If any student does not meet these standards they will be denied future performance opportunities or ultimately be removed from the class.

8. **EVENT HOURS:** When on a field trip or off-campus event, students are expected to be on time and parents are expected to pick up their child at the time listed on the "Event Information Sheet" given out prior to each event. If the entire group is kept waiting due to a late arrival or I, as the teacher, have to stay longer than the time listed, the student may be removed from the program. Out of courtesy for the long hours that are spent on these events, please have students arrive on time and leave on time.

9. Students who fail to bring the proper materials to class on a daily basis may be subject to disciplinary action as well as removal from the program (instrument, music, supplies).

CLASSROOM RULES OF BEHAVIOR

These are fair and simple rules that students are to follow each day, which will allow the band to perform in an organized, well-maintained manner. All students are expected to show pride and respect by following the classroom rules everyday. If a student fails to adhere to the rules of the class he will be issued a warning, a phone call home or removed from the class. Every student has the right to learn and not be distracted by others that choose otherwise!

- All musicians will enter and exit the classroom in a mature manner.
- All musicians will be in their assigned seat within three minutes after the start time of 3:30pm, ready to play when directed.
- There will be NO playing of any instrument until proper instruction is given.
- All materials (music, reeds, books, instruments, folders, supplies) must be brought every day to class so that all musicians may play. If a student is not able to bring his/her instrument because it is in the shop for repairs or he/she cannot play because of injury you must tell the band teacher at the beginning of class. You are then expected to participate in class to the best of your ability (share music, air-finger parts, finger on instrument etc...) ***Sitting and not participating for the entire rehearsal is not an option!!***
- When rehearsal/class period begins, all students' focus and attention must be directed toward the teacher for the remainder of the period, unless otherwise directed.
- Eating, drinking or gum chewing is not allowed in this classroom. Water is the only beverage allowed and suggested on a daily basis.
- Do not touch other people's instruments or property, "If it's not yours, don't touch it!"
- Treat all equipment with the highest level of respect. All musical equipment (instruments, chairs, stands, etc.) is expensive and if not

treated respectfully, the student WILL lose the right to use any musical equipment.

HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN BAND

1. PARENTS ENCOURAGE THE CHILD AND HELP TO MAINTAIN THEIR INTEREST

- A. Make home practice periods pleasant.
- B. Arrange for the child to hear good music often (symphony and youth concerts, music programs on television and radio, etc.).
- C. Provide an occasional reward or praise as recognition of your child's efforts.
- D. Pay attention to the department calendar for rehearsal and performance dates and times.

2. PARENTS AND STUDENTS PROVIDE HOME CONDITIONS CONDUCIVE TO PRACTICING

- A. A comfortable place suitable for practice, equipped with a music stand (if possible), good lighting, and a straight chair.
- B. Arrange that the child is not disturbed or interrupted during the practice time.

3. PARENTS AND STUDENTS ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A SCHEDULE OF REGULAR PRACTICE

- A. At least 1 hour and 45 minutes weekly. (Approximately 15 min. per day)
- B. Keep a consistent practice chart for daily practice and turn in weekly.
- C. Ask to hear impromptu performances at home of the latest music the student has been practicing.

4. PARENTS, FAMILY, FRIENDS AND STUDENTS ATTEND ALL PERFORMANCES!!!!!!

TIPS FOR RENTING AND BUYING

BENEFITS TO RENTING OR PURCHASING YOUR OWN INSTRUMENT:

1. Guarantees your choice of instrument, because you are paying for it
2. It will be brand new or not very old.
3. You will have the instrument as long as you want and even into high school, no need to return at the end of the year.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR WHEN RENTING AN INSTRUMENT:

- For Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet or Trombone, you can rent one for around \$20 - \$25 per month
- Some stores have “Rent-To-Own Programs”: Part of the money you pay in rent can go towards purchasing the instrument after a period of time.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR WHEN PURCHASING AN INSTRUMENT:

- Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet and Trombone can be purchased for about \$400 - 500 depending on brand and model
- Purchase only brand name instruments to guarantee good quality:
 - Flute: Armstrong, Yamaha, Jupiter, Gemeinhardt
 - Clarinet: Vito, LeBlanc, Yamaha, Buffet, Selmer, Jupiter
 - Trumpet: Bach, Getzen, Conn, Besson, Jupiter, Olds
 - Trombone: Yamaha, Bach, Jupiter, Getzen, Bundy
- Stay away from catalog or department store instruments
- Stay away from instruments with NO BRAND NAME on the actual instrument
- Stay away from colored instruments: blue, white, purple, orange, red etc...
- Stay away from the REALLY low priced instruments because they are not quality instruments!!!
- When using the internet, Ebay, Craig’s List make sure they show pictures, it comes with a case and is a brand name instrument.
- Stick with Student or Intermediate Model instruments for lower prices
- Some stores offer a “Buy-Back Plan”: If you are not satisfied with the instrument in the first 3 months they will buy it back for a portion of the purchased price.

LOCAL MUSIC STORES FOR YOUR NEEDS
(Stores are listed in recommendation order)

**Music and Arts
Anaheim Band Instruments**
504 S. State College Blvd.
Anaheim, CA
714-999-5015
www.musicarts.com

Best for: Instrumental Rental,
Band Music and Books,
Supplies, Instrument Repair, &
Private Lessons

Jim's Music Center
14061 Newport Ave.
Tustin, CA
714-669-3300 or 800-644-6874
www.jimsmusic.com

Best for: Instrument purchase or
rental, supplies, great prices and
sales representatives

Sam Ash Music
14200 Beach Blvd.
Westminster, CA
714-899-2122
www.samashmusic.com

Best for: Instrument rental,
guitars and drum equipment,
sheet music, supplies, private
lessons

Guitar Center
Block of Orange
Fountain Valley
Brea
www.guitarcenter.com

Best for: Sheet music, guitar
and drum needs

Woodwind Brasswind
4004 Technology Drive
South Bend, IN 46628
(800) 348-5003
www.wwbw.com

Best for: purchasing instruments
and supplies online. Ship directly
to your home. They have a "Play
Now, Pay Later" plan available.