

Dear Returning Band Students and Parents,

We hope you had a restful summer and you are adjusting to the changes of another school year! It's about time for band to start up again, and we're excited about many new events and activities that are in store for you! We hope you are as excited as we are about continuing with band!

Why Continue with Band?

Each year that you continue with band is a year of more exciting musical opportunities. Your second year of band will bring more performances and events than you were able to take on in your first year. You have already conquered the enormous tasks of learning how to get a sound out of your instrument, learning fingerings, and reading music and rhythm proficiently. You have dedicated countless hours of practice. **You should feel very proud of your accomplishments, so keep going!** Now that the hard part is over, we'll be able to spend our time together just making music. The longer you continue to develop your skills on your instrument, the better each consecutive year will be! Imagine the possibilities of what you'll be able to play in junior high, high school, and beyond!

This Year's Performances and Events

This year you will be able to play in at least two concerts. **All students are expected to participate in all performances.** There may be additional possibilities for performances for each individual school, to be determined as appropriate. The more you practice, the more opportunities! Our major goal this year is for you to further your understanding of reading music, learn more advanced playing techniques, and be exposed to more music in lots of varying styles.

Our two concerts have been scheduled for this school year. **Please mark them on your calendars now to avoid confusion later!**

Winter Concert – Thursday, 1/18, 7:00 pm

End of Year Concert – Wednesday, 5/30, 7:00 pm

More detailed information about these concerts will be sent home prior to the event. All schools will combine into a mass band for the concerts, so it is important that you be able to practice with the students from other schools prior to the performance. There will be after-school rehearsals scheduled in the 2-3 weeks prior to each concert. All band members will be expected to attend the rehearsals and performances! A band is a team—we cannot perform to our fullest ability without each and every member present.

Schedule

The scheduled day of the week and time for each school's band are as follows:

Olinda: Tuesday, 10:10 – 11:00

Arovista: Tuesday, 1:20 – 2:10

Country Hills: Wednesday, 8:40 – 9:30

Laurel: Wednesday, 11:25 – 12:15

Mariposa: Thursday, 9:45 – 10:35

Fanning: Thursday, 2:05 – 2:55

All students need to make a commitment to attending all scheduled band classes, and will be expected to bring their instruments and materials each week. When a student has habitual absences, repeatedly fails to bring materials, or shows habitual disruptive behavior in class, parents will be contacted so we can work together to solve the problems. ***All students who enroll in the band program will be expected to commit to the activity for the entire school year.***

Instrument Preferences

Quite often, students would like to play a different instrument their second year of band. Before you consider switching instruments, remember that you will have to learn a completely new set of skills if you take this on. Those who continue the same instrument have a higher rate of success because they have dedicated more time to one thing. This doesn't mean that you can't be successful on a new instrument; it just means that you will have to be willing to work hard to keep up with the Advanced Band. It is recommended that if you should choose to change instruments, you choose one that is similar to the one you learned last year. **In all cases, you must seek approval from Mr. Hallum to change instruments, as we must make sure we maintain a balanced instrumentation in the group.** In most cases, we recommend that the student continue on one instrument.

Students who desire to play percussion (drums) must seek approval from Mr. Hallum as well. Because percussion is so popular, we will only select extremely highly qualified students to switch (i.e. those who showed a tremendous amount of practice and dedication in their first year, and those who demonstrate an excellent sense of rhythm and pulse). In addition, we will only accept a certain number of percussionists overall (usually 2 students per school). **An informal audition on the first day of band (week of Tuesday September 12 – Thursday September 14) is required for all potential percussionists. This will take place directly after school. Please plan to stay for about 10 minutes after dismissal, and plan transportation accordingly if you plan on auditioning for percussion.**

If you would like to switch to a new instrument this year, please indicate this on the enrollment form in this packet. After reviewing the enrollment forms, Mr. Hallum will discuss it with you and decide.

Practice

Students need to practice regularly to succeed at learning an instrument. Therefore, students are expected to practice daily. Each week there will be a specific practice assignment. Mr. Hallum will regularly ask students informally to play individually to assess the students' progress. In addition, the advanced bands will be continuing the Jedi Band Academy introduced in beginning band. More lightsaber levels are waiting to be collected through written and playing challenges!

Please support and encourage your child by helping them develop a regular practice schedule. Students who do not practice will fall behind very quickly and become frustrated. It is absolutely critical that they develop good practice habits from the very beginning to ensure their success. Mr. Hallum will provide incentives in class for those who show improvement and pass their lightsaber challenges.

Enrollment

I very much hope to see you continue with band this year! Please fill out the enclosed questionnaire if you plan to participate. **Instruction (as indicated for each school on the schedule in this packet) will begin next week (Tuesday September 12 – Thursday September 14). Bring your instrument, your Measures of Success music book, and your enrollment form to turn in on this day.**

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me. I will do all that I can to keep you informed!

Again, I'm extremely excited about another musical year in Brea. I can't wait to see you again!

Sincerely,

Ryan Hallum
rhallum@bousd.us

Instrument Cleaning and Maintenance Supplies

These supplies are recommended for maintenance and cleaning your instrument. Obtaining these supplies will help prevent against damage. Many music stores sell all of these supplies in maintenance kits. Bring this paper with you to the music store to eliminate confusion!

Flute

- Cleaning cloth (for inside of instrument)
- Plain, soft cloth (for polishing the outside of the instrument)
- Cleaning rod
- Sharp #2 pencil with eraser

Clarinet

- Cork grease
- At least five #2.5 reeds or higher (Vandoren brand recommended)
- Reed Guard (for reed storage)
- Swab cloth or pad saver (for cleaning inside of instrument)
- Sharp #2 pencil with eraser

Saxophone

- Cork grease
- At least five #2.5 reeds or higher (Vandoren brand recommended)
- Reed Guard (for reed storage)
- Swab cloth or pad saver (for cleaning inside of instrument)
- Sharp #2 pencil with eraser

Trumpet

- Valve oil
- Tuning slide grease
- Mouthpiece brush
- Cleaning snake
- Plain, soft cloth (for polishing)
- Sharp #2 pencil with eraser

Trombone

- Slide oil
- Tuning slide grease
- Mouthpiece brush
- Cleaning snake
- Plain, soft cloth (for polishing)
- Sharp #2 pencil with eraser

Percussion

- Standard Student Bell Kit with stand and mallets
- Practice pad – full size (may come with bell kit)
- Drum sticks – size SD 2 General, may come with bell kit)
- Sharp #2 pencil with eraser

Many music stores sell beginner snare drum kits that come with a snare drum, drum stand, practice pad, sticks, and carrying case. This is not required but may be helpful for home practice. Some stores may carry a combination snare drum/bell kit to meet all of your percussion needs!

***For all instruments**—we will be using the book **“Measures of Success Book 1.”** Most instructional material and home practice assignments will be from this book. It should be available at any of the vendors on the attached list.

For all instruments, a wire, foldable music stand for home practice is highly recommended!

Many music stores teach private lessons. Lessons are always a good idea, and can greatly improve the student’s level of success.

Local Music Retailers

Here is a list of some local music vendors. You should be able to find all necessary supplies from any of these local stores. Of course, you may obtain your instrument and supplies wherever you like. The district does not endorse any specific music store. Please contact Mr. Hallum if you need assistance.

Imperial Band Instruments

15847 East Imperial Hwy.
La Mirada, CA 90638
(562) 245-6043
<http://www.imperial-band.com>

Music and Arts

504 S. State College
Anaheim, CA 92806
(714) 999-5015
www.musicarts.com

Mo's Music

121 N. Harbor Blvd.
Fullerton, CA 92832
(714) 871-1805
www.mosfullertonmusic.com

Rowland Music

19760 Colima Rd.
Rowland Heights, CA 91748
(909) 595-8986

La Habra Music

1885 W. La Habra Blvd.
La Habra, CA 90631
(562) 694-4891
www.lahabramusic.com

Singer Music

1217 North Hacienda Blvd.
La Puente, CA 91744
(626) 917-9300
www.singermusic.com

**Advanced Band Enrollment Form
Brea Olinda Unified School District**

Student Name _____

Parent/Guardian Names _____

Home Address _____

City _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone _____ Parent Work Phone _____

School _____ Grade _____ Teacher _____

Instrument played last year _____

Have you taken private lessons on your instrument? If so, for how long?

The majority of my communication with parents takes place through email. Please indicate the email address at which you would like to receive all communication about band this year (please write legibly!) _____

Instrument Preferences

_____ I would like to continue playing the instrument I played last year (recommended).

_____ I would like to **request** to play a new instrument this year **other than percussion** (*requires approval from Mr. Hallum*).

Instrument choice: _____

_____ I would like to request to play percussion this year (*requires audition and approval from Mr. Hallum*).

Please fill out the Contract of Dedication on the back side of this paper.

Contract of Dedication

As a member of the Elementary Advanced Band, I agree to:

1. Be on time to class with my instrument, book, and other necessary materials.
2. Maintain instrument in good condition.
3. Practice at home on a daily basis (20 minutes per day recommended).
4. Attend all performances.
5. Commit to the band program for the entire school year.

Student Name (Print)

Student Signature

Date

Parent Name (Print)

Parent Signature

Date

Thank You!

