

Flossmoor School District 161

Beginning Band Handbook



2011 - 2012

Mrs. Heather Hoefle

Ms. Elana Panner

Directors

Contact Information

Mrs. Heather Hoefle: 647-5474 Ms. Elana Panner: 647-5476

Lessons During the School Day

Each student will receive a 30 minute group lesson at their own school each week. Lessons begin the week of September 19-23. Your child will be given a schedule once lesson times are determined.

Lessons begin first, then the full band rehearsals are added to the schedule a couple of weeks later.

It is vital to your child's success that they bring their instrument and music to every rehearsal and lesson!

Band Rehearsal Schedule

Full Band rehearsals are every Monday in the L.G.I. (Large Group Instruction room) at Parker Junior High from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. Rehearsals will start on Monday, October 17th, 2011 and continue until auditions occur in May, 2012.

Students who attend the grade school will be bussed to the afternoon rehearsals at Parker.

Every student needs a ride home from Parker Junior High at 4:30 p.m. on Mondays after rehearsal. Students who cannot get transportation home may not participate in the program. Students should be picked up by the "B" door by the large parking lot.

Concerts

The Beginning Band performs two concerts a year:

Winter Band Concert – Tuesday, December 6th, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

Spring Band Concert – Tuesday, April 24th, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

Both concerts will be held in the Parker Junior High North Gym. Students are expected to stay for the duration of the concert, which is usually about 1 hour and 15 minutes. Concert attire is required.

Concert Attire

Students are required to purchase a royal blue Parker Music Department polo shirt. This is the same shirt that is used in Parker Junior High band, choir, and Varsity and Falcon Orchestras.

In addition to this shirt, students are required to wear black dress pants, black socks, and black dress shoes.

Practice

Students are asked to practice a total of 90 minutes per week. Practice journals will be stapled inside the front cover of their Essential Elements 2000 method book, and are to be filled out each week and signed by an adult. The lesson teacher will check the practice journal each week in lessons.

With busy student schedules, it is important to consider practicing part of the homework routine. Yes, practicing can be enjoyable, but most children will not practice on their own without some guidance. Most worthwhile endeavors require some effort, and music is no exception. Consider instrumental music to be part of your child's education. The SmartMusic computer software that comes with the Essential Elements 2000 method book is useful for making home practice fun and productive.

Aside from monitoring practice time, it is helpful if parents also make sure students are practicing the correct assignment for the week. The assignment will be written on the practice journal inside the front cover of the Essential Elements 2000 method book.

Your child will get out of band what he or she puts into it!

Private lessons/Buddy lessons

Many of our band students also take private lessons outside of school. This is not required, but it is an excellent way to improve your child's progress. Information about lesson teachers is available from Mrs. Hoefle or Ms. Panner.

Field Trip

Band students take one field trip per year, paid for out of the band fee.

Band Fee

The \$50.00 band fee is payable to the school district. It is separate from instrument rental fees, which are paid to the vendor from which you obtained your child's instrument.

Instrument Rental and Repair

The music store that we deal with is Quinlan and Fabish (630)654-4111. If you are renting from Quinlan and Fabish, you can send your child's instrument in for repair and obtain a loaner instrument without leaving your home. If you know your child's instrument needs repair, call and ask for a loaner instrument. The representative will deliver the instrument to and from the store in Burr Ridge. If you have a current, active account, it will be covered with no cost to you.

If you own your instrument, we can guide you on where to go for repairs.

Grades & Auditions

Beginning Band students receive written progress reports with their report cards each trimester. Parker students' progress reports will be mailed home.

During the week of May 14-18 each band student will go through a short audition to determine which band they are best suited for in the fall. Audition results will be mailed home with the final progress report.



Smart Music

SmartMusic is an exciting computer program that allows your child to practice their instrument with the computer at home. An introductory package is included with the Essential Elements 2000 method book. We encourage you to try it out at home. It can make practicing fun, and also ensure that they are practicing correctly!

SmartMusic is Music Learning Software

Never practice alone. Get better faster. Make practicing fun.

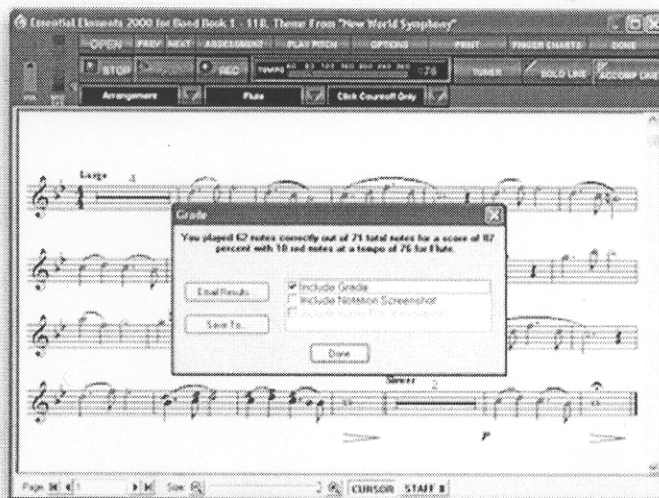


Fire up SmartMusic on your computer. Plug in a vocal or instrumental microphone and begin practicing. Students play or sing their part with accompaniment and receive, in real time on the computer, detailed feedback on their performance. Ideal for woodwind, brass, string, and vocal musicians of all levels.

As a student using SmartMusic:

- Your teacher can [send assignments](#) to you online.
- You practice exercises and songs from a huge [library of music titles](#).
- You play along with [Intelligent Accompaniment®](#), so you hear your part as it should be with the rest of your musical group.
- SmartMusic listens as you play, giving constant [feedback](#) on how well you play.
- Instant help with [fingering instructions](#) helps you learn faster.
- Move at your own pace. You control the [tempo](#), [key](#), [practice loops](#), and more.
- You can make a [recording](#) of your practice to send back to your teacher for grading.

[VIEW LARGER](#)



Assessment - SmartMusic listens as you play and gives you instant feedback.

HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD SUCCEED IN BAND

1. Use the SmartMusic computer software that comes with the band book.
2. Make sure they have all the accessories they need (music stand, reeds, valve oil, swabs, etc.).
3. Make sure your child has a sturdy chair and a music stand for practice at home. Check to see that they are practicing the assigned material. Ask for performances. Listen for progress, not perfection.
4. Sign practice journals weekly.
5. Check to make sure your child brings their instrument home on weekends (at least!) for practice.
6. Make sure your child is prepared for lessons and attends full band rehearsals each week.
7. Be sure your child has the proper uniform.
8. Consider private lessons outside of school.
9. Make sure you are familiar with the information in this handbook.
10. Be patient and positive about your child's progress. It will take time, but they will make music!!