

BEGINNING BAND

Dear 4th and 5th Grade Students and Parents:

Beginning Band will be starting soon for 4th and 5th graders. Band is an extremely fun experience that can last a lifetime! Band not only helps you develop musically, it also builds the traits of self-discipline and personal responsibility which help kids to excel in all subject areas. Our band students at Finn Hill are some of the best all-around students in the school!

Beginning band classes are held at Finn Hill Middle School in the band room from 8:00 to 8:45am on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The first day of class will be Monday, September 25th. Students will need their own transportation to FHMS for band. The district provides a band bus that takes students to their elementary school after band.

There is no cost for elementary band but you will need to provide an instrument and a book. Instruments can be purchased or rented at many local music stores. We highly recommend that beginners rent their instruments. If you are thinking about purchasing a used instrument or using a “hand-me-down” we recommend that you have it checked out by a competent repair person. Please be very wary of instruments that are being sold at discount stores or at low prices online. These are nearly always made of inferior materials and non-standard parts which can not be replaced or repaired. If you plan to buy an instrument and you are unfamiliar with the brand, please contact Mr. Maier before you make the purchase. You will also need to purchase the band book: “Accent on Achievement” Book 1. It will be available where you rent your instruments.

Beginning Band students can choose between the flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone and baritone. Students who would like to play the baritone or trombone may be able to use a school instrument (depending on the number of students interested). Students who want to play saxophone should start on the clarinet as it provides better beginner training. Students interested in percussion instruments should start on a wind instrument. In January we will hold auditions for percussion.

We will be hosting Beginning Band Orientation/Rental Night on Monday, September 18, at 7:00 pm at Finn Hill Middle School in the band room. This is an informal opportunity for students and parents to learn about the instruments, the band program, meet the directors, and rent instruments. Juanita High School students will be there to demonstrate each of the instruments. If your kids aren't sure which instrument they would like to play, we will also have instruments available for them to try out. This year we will have three of our local music stores there with instruments to rent and books to purchase so you won't have to make a trip to the music store.

Parents, we'd love to have a very large turnout for band. However, please remind your son or daughter that starting band is a serious commitment that requires practicing at home. After discussing Beginning Band with your son or daughter, please fill out the registration form. You can turn it in to your school secretary, bring it with you to beginning band night on the 18th, or have your son or daughter bring it to the first day of band.

Please contact Mr. Maier at Finn Hill if you have any questions. 425-936-2340 ext. 54115, rmaier@lwsd.org

We look forward starting your kids on a great musical journey!

Ron Maier
Serena Scrivner



2017-2018 Beginning Band Registration Form

Student _____

School _____

Classroom Teacher _____

Parents' Names _____

Address _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone _____

Cell _____

Email: _____

To have a good sounding band it is very important to have balanced instrumentation. Often, many kids choose Flute, Clarinet, or Trumpet as their beginning instrument and there are not enough low brass players to create a well-balanced band. In the event that our instrumentation is "top heavy" we may ask some students to consider beginning on the Trombone or Baritone instead. Every instrument is fun, challenging, and important. They all have a very unique role to play in the group!

Please circle your first choice.

FLUTE CLARINET TRUMPET TROMBONE BARITONE PERCUSSION*

If necessary, would you be willing to play a different instrument? Please circle your second choice.

FLUTE CLARINET TRUMPET TROMBONE BARITONE PERCUSSION*

*Remember, students wishing to play a percussion instrument should first start on one of the five wind instruments, so be sure to circle both.

