

Memorial Middle School 2018 – Beginner Band Information



Eric Schaefer, Music Director

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Beginner Band is an extra-curricular class for 5th and 6th grade students with no prior band experience. It is held every Thursday after school. Band members will learn how to read music, play a band instrument of their choice and perform in two concerts. If you are interested in joining Beginner Band, please look over this information packet and share it with your parents/guardian. If you decide to join, fill out the sign-up sheet at the end of this packet and submit it to Mr. Schaefer no later than Thursday, September 20th.

There will be a short meeting for anyone interested in joining Beginner Band on **Thursday, September 13th** from 2:55 to 3:20 in the gymnasium. During the meeting, 5th graders will have the opportunity to ask questions, see and hear the instruments up close, hold them in a playing position, and speak to band members in older grades. Parents are welcome to attend this meeting as well.

Rehearsal Schedule:

Beginner Band members will have a rehearsal and lesson every week:

- Rehearsals take place every Thursday after school from 2:55 to 3:30
- 20-minute group lessons are held every week during school in the music office (students are excused from part of class or lunch).

Rehearsals will not be held on half-days. Band members are expected to be at all rehearsals and lessons unless a note or email from a parent is sent to Mr. Schaefer. Unexcused absences will result in a lower band grade.

It is important that all students are picked up after rehearsals no later than 3:45. If you are unable to pick up your child by that time, please arrange for another band parent to pick them up. If your child will be walking home from school after chorus rehearsals, please let me know by email or written note before the first rehearsal.

The first rehearsal will be held on **Thursday, September 20th**.



Concert Dates:

Beginner Band members will perform in two mandatory concerts this school year. Please mark these dates on your calendar:

- The Holiday Concert will be held on **Wednesday, December 19th** at 7:00 in the Gymnasium.
- The Spring Concert will be held on **Wednesday, May 8th, 2019** at 7:00 in the Gymnasium.
- At the end of the school year, Beginner Band students also have the option to join Graduation Band and perform for the eighth grade graduation ceremony at PVHS.

Band Instruments:

Band students will choose an instrument to play. Instrument sign-ups will begin on **Monday, September 17th**. A sign-up sheet will be posted after school on the music bulletin board outside of the gym. Sign-ups will be run on a first-come basis. In order to have a balanced band, there will be a limit to how many instruments there are in each section.

Flute:



The flute is one of the oldest man-made musical instruments. It is usually a silver color, and is played by holding parallel to the ground and blowing air over the lip plate. While blowing, a flute player covers and uncovers holes with their fingers to change the pitch. The flute has an airy, delicate sound.

Clarinet:



The clarinet is made out of either wood or plastic. It is played by blowing into the mouthpiece. As the clarinet player blows, the reed (small, thin piece of wood) vibrates against the mouthpiece to create the sound. While blowing, a clarinet player covers and uncovers holes with their fingers to change the pitch. The clarinet has a warm, innocent sound.

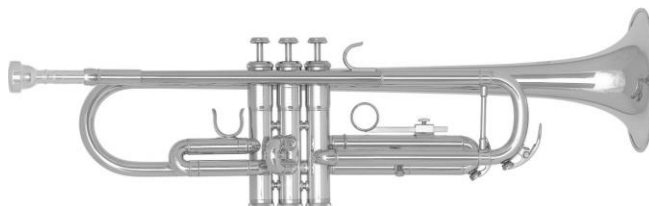
Alto Saxophone:

The alto saxophone is made out of metal and is usually a brass color. The saxophone is used frequently in jazz. It is played by blowing into the mouthpiece. An alto saxophone needs reeds (small, thin pieces of wood) in order to make a sound. While blowing, a saxophone player presses and releases keys to change the pitch. It has a raspy, smoky sound.



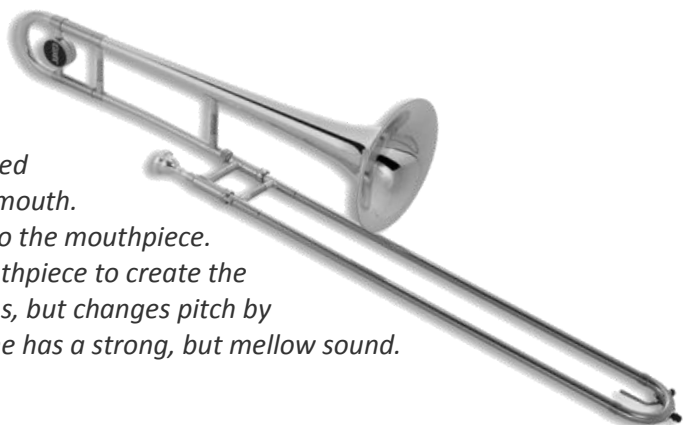
Trumpet:

The trumpet is made out of metal and is usually a brass color. The trumpet is held up in front of the player's head, with the mouthpiece on the player's mouth. A trumpet player's lips vibrate into the mouthpiece to create the sound. While blowing, a trumpet player presses and releases three valves to change the pitch. The trumpet has a bright, majestic sound.



Trombone:

The trombone is made out of metal and is usually a brass color. The trombone is played with the instrument held high in front of the mouth. The sound is made when the player blows into the mouthpiece. A trombone player's lips vibrate into the mouthpiece to create the sound. The trombone has no buttons or valves, but changes pitch by changing the position of a slide. The trombone has a strong, but mellow sound.



Percussion:

Percussion instruments make their noise when a player strikes them, making them the only group in band that doesn't blow into their instruments. Percussion players in beginner band will learn how to play the snare drum, bass drum, tambourine, and mallet instruments (xylophone, glockenspiel).



Instrument Rentals:

Band members will need to rent an instrument from a local music store. Memorial Middle School uses **Music & Arts** in Wayne for our instrument rentals. Visit musicarts.com/wayne and click on the "rental program" button. Select Memorial Middle School and follow the instructions. After you order an instrument, Music & Arts will deliver it to our school and students will be able to take it home after the first rehearsal.

I strongly encourage beginning students to rent an instrument rather than purchase. Please contact me if you wish to purchase an instrument so that I may give you a few recommendations. If you plan on using an instrument that has been previously used by a family member or friend, take the instrument to a music store to be checked by qualified repair technician. Students should have their instruments by the second rehearsal on **Thursday, September 27**. Please do not let your child play their instrument before this date, as they can develop bad habits or possibly damage the instrument.

The following items listed are the supplies for each instrument. These supplies are *not always* included with the rental, so you may need to acquire them separately. If you order from **Music & Arts**, these will come with the instrument.

- All instruments:** Name tag on case, pencil for inside of case, *Standard of Excellence Book 1* for your instrument (may be bought from Mr. Schaefer, Music & Arts, or online)
- Flutes:** Cleaning rod, small cleaning swab
- Clarinets:** Cleaning swab, at least 3 reeds (#2 strength- *Vandoren* preferred) cork grease. Note- students will typically use 2-4 reeds per month when beginning

Saxophones:	Swab, at least 3 reeds (#1 ½ strength- <i>Vandoren</i> preferred), cork grease. Note- students will typically use 2-4 reeds per month when beginning
Trumpets:	Valve oil, slide grease
Trombones:	Slide oil, tuning slide grease
Baritones:	Valve oil, slide grease
Percussion:	2B snare drum sticks, snare drum kit

If you would like to visit Music & Arts, here is the address:

**Music & Arts
Plaza Square
661 Hamburg Turnpike
Wayne, NJ
(973) 956-0630
stores.musicarts.com/wayne**

What you need for each rehearsal/lesson:

- Your instrument (the first rehearsal will be without instruments)
- Instrument accessories (valve oil, cork grease, extra reeds, etc.)
- *Standard of Excellence* music book, folder, and other music given out
- Pencil

It is important to come prepared to every rehearsal. Please remember to bring your instrument, music, and a pencil to each lesson & rehearsal.

Grading Policy:

Although it is partially after school, Beginner Band is a class and students will receive a grade on their report cards. Grades will be based on three four areas:

- **40%: Rehearsal & lessons attendance**
For full marks in this category, students should be on time for all rehearsals & lessons.
- **40%: Attitude, effort, and preparation**
Students should demonstrate a positive attitude, help out with setup and take-down, and come prepared with music and their instrument at all lessons & rehearsals.
- **20%: Practice log**
Home practice is required and necessary to improve on an instrument. Parents will fill out a home practice log that will be collected and checked off at the end of each marking period.

To join:

If you are interested in joining Beginner Band, please fill out the sign-up form on the next page. If you have any questions, please email Mr. Schaefer at eschaefer@wpschools.org.



Beginner Band Sign-Up form

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Instrument: _____

I give my child permission to participate in Beginner Band. I am aware of the rehearsal schedule and concert dates. I read the grading policy and I understand that my child needs to be picked up from school no later than 3:45 after a band rehearsal.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Parent email address: _____

**a frequently checked email address will be used to share changes in rehearsal schedule, newsletters and other communication*

Home telephone number: _____

Cell phone number (optional): _____

Tear off and return to Mr. Schaefer before **Thursday, September 20th**