

Wood School Instrumental Music Program

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On Tuesday, September 11th, your child will see the award-winning King Philip Regional High School Band perform and demonstrate some of the musical instruments that are available to them this year in our instrumental music program. All students that choose to participate in the program are given the opportunity to learn about music in a variety of settings, which are explained below. Participation in band has been shown to improve child development in both mathematics and language, as well as in improving motor skills.

Students who participate in beginning band may choose from a variety of instruments, including the following:

- Flute
- French Horn
- Snare Drum
- Clarinet
- Trumpet
- Orchestra Bells
- Alto Saxophone
- Trombone

Starting band in elementary school makes playing in middle and high school programs much easier, as the basic skill set to play an instrument is already learned. There are also more instruments available to your child as they progress in the program. Below is a general layout of the different aspects of the program.

Instruments – An instrument distribution day has been scheduled for Saturday morning, **September 15th, from 9:00am-11:00am at King Philip Regional High School. This is where and when you will be able to rent an instrument for your child.** Credit card and ID are required for rental or purchase of an instrument. Because of the limited quantities, instruments will be rented on a first-come first serve basis. The instrument rental contract is set up so that you will receive an initial four-month rental for the cost of only two months. Following the first four months, you can continue to pay monthly for the instrument. The distribution day will have lesson books available, which are required for lessons. Also available will be music stands for practicing at home, and other accessories for your instrument including reeds if you are renting a woodwind. If renting an instrument poses a financial hardship, please see Mr. Sherwin, who can set you up with a school owned instrument or can help find a less expensive option. I strive to make sure that no child is prevented from learning an instrument for any reason.

Lessons – Students will receive one 30-minute group lesson per week during the school day. They must bring their instrument, lesson book, music, and a pencil to all lessons. Students are responsible for the work they miss in their classes while attending their lessons; with that said, if a teacher feels that it is necessary for a student to miss a lesson due to the importance or fundamental nature of the material being covered, the student will be responsible for getting a note to Mr. Sherwin from that teacher so that they are accounted for and not marked absent. All students should also be responsible for knowing when lessons take place. A master schedule will be sent home with all students, posted outside my classroom, posted in each child's classroom, and published on my school website.

Band Rehearsals – Band rehearsals will be approximately 55 minutes long and take place before school from 7:45am-8:40am on Wednesdays & Fridays. Students will be responsible for being ready to rehearse at **7:45am**, not arriving at 7:45am. That means students must be in their chair with their instrument, music, pencil, and a music stand ready to go at **7:45am**. Arriving around 7:35am should allow ample time for students to set up and be ready to rehearse at 7:45am. These rehearsals will begin soon after the students receive their instruments. This is a mandatory part of the instrumental music program and attendance will be taken daily. If you have a hard time finding a way to get your child to school at 7:45am, or if you are willing to pick other children up on your way to school, please let me know so that I can help arrange a carpool.

Being a member of the band is like being the member of a team, and we must practice with all of the team members there. Therefore, if a student has more than 3 unexcused absences from band rehearsal or lessons, they will not be allowed to participate in the upcoming concert. If a student brings in a note to me saying that they will be/were absent from band, or if they were absent from school, then it is considered an excused absence. Students and parents will be notified when 2 unexcused absences have occurred.

Performances – All beginning band students will have the opportunity to perform in both the winter and spring concerts at the Wood School. In addition, all students are eligible to try out for the King Philip Honors Band and the opportunity to perform with musicians from Norfolk and Wrentham. Students that opt to participate in Honors Band will also get the chance to earn ribbon awards that they can showcase at future concerts.

Practicing – Weekly homework assignments will be given at the end of each lesson and students are expected to come prepared the following week. Fifteen to twenty minutes of home practice time five days a week is required. Students must practice at home in order to keep up with the pace of material in lessons and in band rehearsals. Parents can help students to practice by setting up a schedule for at-home practicing and praising your children for their hard work. More information will go out to parents about supporting your child's musical endeavors as we proceed through the school year.

Should you wish to have your child take advantage of this program or if you are interested in more information, please complete the attached form and return it to your child's classroom teacher on or before Thursday, September 13th. **Please keep this top sheet for your own records.** If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact me via email at csherwin@plainville.k12.ma.us or stop by my classroom before/after school or by appointment. I hope to meet many of you on instrument distribution day!

Sincerely,

Charles Sherwin
Instrumental Music Teacher
Beatrice H. Wood School

Instrument Selection & Student Registration

Please identify what your child's choice of instrument would be. Write 1 for your preferred instrument, and write 2 for your second choice. (Two choices are necessary due to the availability of the instruments. Preference will be determined based on how soon this form is returned.)

_____ Flute
_____ Clarinet
_____ Alto Saxophone

_____ Trumpet
_____ Trombone
_____ Snare Drum

Instrument Rental (Please select from one of the following)

_____ We will rent an instrument at King Philip Regional High School's instrument distribution day on Saturday, September 15th from 9am-11am

_____ We will rent an instrument through another agency.

_____ We will use an instrument we own or have access to that is in good working/playing condition. (If you choose this option, please bring your instrument into Mr. Sherwin before 9/14/17 so that he can make sure it is in good, playing condition.)

Student's Information:

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Homeroom Teacher: _____ (Important for scheduling lessons)

Parents' Information:

Parents' Name(s): _____

Best Cell Phone Number(s): (____)-____-____ (For using the REMIND App.)

Email(s): _____

Please fill out BOTH sides of this form and return it to your child's classroom teacher by Thursday, September 13th, 2018!

Instrumental Music Program Student Contract

In order to become a member of the instrumental music program, you must sign the following agreement, making you responsible for the following items.

I will:

- Be kind, courteous, respectful, and a good teammate to all musicians around me
- Be kind, courteous, and respectful to Mr. Sherwin
- Attend ALL lessons, morning band rehearsals, and concerts
- Be punctual and prepared for all lessons, band rehearsals, and concerts
- Practice at home regularly in order to be prepared for lessons and rehearsals
- Be responsible for my own behavior during lessons, rehearsals, and concerts
- Be responsible for the work I miss in my classes during group lessons
- Take care of my instrument and keep it in good playing condition
- Put away all of my equipment and help others put away their equipment at the end of each rehearsal
- Help others around me so that we, as a team, can all become better
- Let Mr. Sherwin know ASAP if I have any troubles with my instrument, music, or otherwise

Student Signature:_____ **Date:**_____

Parent Signature:_____ **Date:**_____

**Please return this to your child's classroom teacher by
Thursday, September 13th.**