

Glen Ellyn District 41 Instrumental Music Department

240 Hawthorne Blvd., Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
Jan Weiland, Beginning Band Director jweiland@d41.org

Welcome to the World of Music!

I would like to welcome you and your child to one of the most exciting and rewarding educational opportunities our school district has to offer – BAND! Being involved in the band program is exciting for children and parents alike. Being involved with band and music offers your child unrealized rewards that will last for a lifetime.

As a child, I did not think of the statistical reasons why I wanted to be involved in music, and you may not think of them either. But there are educational reasons why being in band is so special:

- Statistics prove that young people who participate in music are among the academically strongest in their schools.
- They have higher SAT scores than their fellow classmates.
- Their adult lives are filled with the success which is a direct result of their band experience: self-discipline, group cooperation, high self-esteem, understanding teamwork, developing a sense of persistence and performance confidence.
- As your child progresses in his/her understanding and command of the instrument, you will see that the desire for excellence applies to every subject in school and serves as a training ground for dealing with many aspects of adult life.

Those statistics are great for when your child gets older, but why should your **child** join band now? For many of the same reasons of course, but also because:

- Children like to have fun. Learning an instrument **is fun!** That's why we say that we **play music**, not work at music.
- Children want to be involved in different activities. Children like to feel that they belong, and being in band is one way for your child to be involved in a school activity.
- Children want to be with their peers and be part of a team. Being in band is like being on a team where everyone works together, but with a major difference: ***in band no one ever sits on the bench, we all play!*** And this is why band is so special.

As a music educator, and someone who has been involved with music since I was a small child, I want to share the wonderful experiences that I have had for my entire life. I am passionate in believing that being a musician and playing music is one of the most unique and wonderful experiences a child can have. I hope you feel the same, and want the same for your child.

Again, welcome to the Band program and the world of music!

Jan Weiland, Beginning Band Director
jweiland@d41.org or voicemail 630-534-7657.

How to Register for 5th Grade Beginning Band, 2011-2012

1. **Attend the Open House Registration Meeting** on Tuesday, May 24, 2011. The meeting takes place between 4:30 and 7:00 at Hadley Junior High.
2. **Fill out a Registration Form.** If you cannot attend, register by downloading the registration forms from www.d41.org. Click on your child's school. There will be a link to Beginning Band on the right side, under Quick Links. Download and fill out the Band Registration Form. Your email address is very important, as the band directors send all information home via email. Print out the Band Handbook and keep it for future reference.
3. **Please register by May 31st, 2011.** We need to know how many students will be in band so that we have the correct staffing in September. Late registration might mean that lesson groups are larger than what is optimal for this age level. If your child is not sure, it is easier to remove his name from a lesson group than to try and add another lesson group to the schedule to accommodate late registrations.
4. **Rent an instrument** and purchase lesson books. Our school uses the services of **Quinlan and Fabish Company**, a family owned business that has been in operation for over 50 years. Quinlan and Fabish representatives will be on hand at the Open House Registration Meeting to assist with rentals. Payment will be expected, so please bring your checkbook, cash or charge card. If you cannot attend the meeting to rent an instrument, you may call Quinlan and Fabish at 630-654-4111 directly or online at www.qandf.com.
5. **Beginning Band Handbook** -read through and mark all dates on your calendar.
6. **Financial Assistance – WE CAN HELP!** If you need financial assistance, The District 41 Music Education Foundation sponsors a program called *Music for All* for those who qualify for financial assistance in renting an instrument and payment of fees. Please look at the www.d41.org website and click on your home school. Look at the bottom for the MEF link. Click on *Music for All* to download an application. **If you do not qualify**, there are other ways we can help. We want to make sure that every child who wishes to play receives an instrument.

Information contained in this packet

1. **The Beginning Band Handbook.** Read and keep this information for future use. It contains all band dates for the school year.
2. **Band Registration form.** Please print neatly and return along with your child's registration fee. If you do not register at the Registration meeting, please mail the form to "Hadley Band Director" at the address on the form.
3. **Frequently Asked Questions.** If you have a question, it might be answered in this section.

5th Grade Beginning Band Handbook 2011-2012

Beginners will need:

1. An instrument in good working condition.
2. A folding music stand. All students need a folding music stand for practice at home and for use at rehearsals and concerts. Please label both parts of the stand with your child's name.
3. Lesson books and materials:
 - a. **Woodwind and brass students** will be using the "Sound Innovations" method, Book 1 for their particular instrument **and** "Concert Favorites, Volume 1" by Hal Leonard. Please note that Concert Favorites has a yellow border around the cover. If you receive a book with a blue border, you have the wrong volume.
 - b. **Drum students** will also need the same two lesson books and a folding music stand. The only difference is that drum students will need to *purchase* a drum pad and stand – those items are not rented. We prefer all drummers to purchase the CB Model 3650 Practice Pad Kit. This kit comes with a practice pad and practice pad stand, a pair of drum sticks, and a backpack bag with interior compartments for accessories and music. If you do not purchase the CB Model 3650 Practice Pad Kit, then please purchase a Remo 8" drum pad and stand, and a pair of Vic Firth Model 2B drum sticks. The Remo drum pad and stand does not come with a carrying case and *your child will be required to have a separate bag to carry his or her drum equipment to school.*

Beginning Band Lessons

Group lessons of *like* instruments will be scheduled at your child's school.

1. Students are taken out of class for about 30 minutes each week.
2. Lessons are scheduled on a rotating basis so that students do not miss the same class time each week. Students may arrange with Mrs. Weiland ahead of time if there is a conflict.
3. Lesson schedules will be distributed to your student at *his or her* school in the fall.

Rehearsals and Concerts- please mark these dates on your family calendar!!

To prepare for concert performances, rehearsals are scheduled so students from all schools learn to play together.

1. All rehearsals will be held at **Hadley Jr. High.**
2. **Rehearsals for the Winter Concert are:**
 - Tuesday, November 22, 2011
 - Tuesday, November 29, 2011
 - Tuesday, December 6, 2011
3. **The Winter Concert is scheduled for Thursday, December 8, 2011**
4. **Rehearsal dates for the Spring Concert are:**
 - Tuesday, April 3, 2012
 - Tuesday, April 10, 2012
 - Tuesday, April 17, 2012
5. **The Spring Concert is scheduled for Thursday, April 19, 2012.**
6. Parents are responsible for transportation to and from rehearsals; car-pooling is suggested. Students should arrive 10-15 before each rehearsal to find their seat and assemble their instrument. Please pick up your child on time! Children should not need to use a phone to call a parent when rehearsal is over. *Rehearsal always ends on time!*

How many rehearsals does my child need to attend before each concert?

Your child should attend all three rehearsals before each concert. However, sometimes things come up that may prevent your child from attending one of the rehearsals. If this happens, please notify me ahead of time and I will mark your child excused. I will also make sure that your child learns any new material that was presented at the rehearsal that he or she missed.

Beginning Band Uniform

We stress to our students that they should look and act professional. All band students, regardless of level, need a white buttoned-down shirt with a collar, black pants, black socks, black shoes, black belt if needed. This is a formal look; please no jeans or gym shoes. We require girls to wear pants for modesty reasons.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do students learn about joining band?

During the month of May, elementary students attend a Demonstration Concert at Hadley Jr. High. The Hadley Band students perform and demonstrate each instrument of the band to the audience. Band instruments include flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, bassoon, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, tuba and percussion.

When can a student join band?

Students who are in 4th grade are recruited to join band in 5th grade.

What instruments can they start on?

Students start on flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, baritone and percussion. If a student wishes to play oboe, saxophone or bassoon, it is recommended that they start on clarinet first. If a student wishes to play French horn, it is recommended that they start on trumpet. If a student wishes to play tuba, it is recommended that they start on baritone. After the students have been playing their initial instrument for three months, the band director will evaluate their abilities. If a student shows proficiency, he or she may move to their step-up instrument after the Winter Concert.

How does a child choose an instrument?

All children are invited to attend an "*Instrument Petting Zoo*" at school. The dates for the Petting Zoo are May 18th and 19th, 2011. At the Petting Zoo, children are encouraged to try as many instruments as they wish. We then ask the students to choose the instrument they would like to study and most of them choose the one that sounds the best to them. This is probably the most valid and lasting reason for studying that instrument. However, sometimes a student may choose an instrument that did not suit them – it was too large, too big for their hands or the mouthpiece was unsuitable for that child's mouth and teeth. In that case, as professionals we made recommendations of instruments that we thought would fit that child better.

What is the next step after choosing an instrument?

The next step is to register for band. Band Open House and Registration is May 24th at Hadley Junior High, from 4:30 – 7:00 pm. Parents can meet with the band directors and get information about the Beginning Band Program. Parents will also be asked to fill out a band registration form.

Can I rent an instrument or do I need to purchase one?

We highly recommend that you rent an instrument, rather than buy one. Rental offers the benefits of trying an instrument without a big financial commitment. Also, reputable rental companies include a repair plan along with the rental; any instrument that needs repair during the rental period will be repaired without additional cost.

Representatives from the educational department of **Quinlan and Fabish Company** will be at the Band Open House and Registration to assist you in renting an instrument and discussing the rental plan. Payment will be expected, so please bring your checkbook, cash or charge card. If you cannot attend the meeting to rent an instrument, you may call Quinlan and Fabish at 630-654-4111 directly or online at www.qandf.com.

Times are tough right now, but my child really wants to join band. Is there any financial assistance?

Yes, we can help! Please attend the Open House and Registration to fill out an instrument scholarship form. *We will do everything possible to make sure that every child who wishes to learn an instrument has the opportunity to do so.*

Can I do anything ahead of time?

Yes you can go to www.d41.org and click on your child's school. There will be a link to Beginning Band on the right side, under Quick Links. Download and fill out the Band Registration Form. Your email address is very important, as the band directors send all information home via email. Print out the Band Handbook and keep it for future reference.

Besides the instrument rental, are there any fees involved?

The school district charges a **participation fee** of \$30.00 to offset the costs of this program. The school district will add this fee to the July fee mailing. Please do not pay the fee on the night of registration.

What will my child need to participate in band?

- A good quality instrument and supplies (reeds, valve oil, cleaning cloth)
- Two lesson books
- A folding music stand

Won't any instrument be fine? After all, my child is just a beginner.

We agree that your child will not need the best professional quality instrument on the market today. But he or she will have more success if their instrument is of good quality, sturdy and *suited for a beginner*. Warehouse clubs, discount stores and Ebay all sell cheap or inexpensive instruments. *Many of these instruments cannot be repaired in the United States!* Just like with a car, you get what you pay for. An instrument that is purchased or rented from a reputable music store will be suited for a young player. It will also come with an instrument repair plan that covers damage and loss. Most beginning students will need to have a repair done to their instrument within the first few months of playing – that is a fact that comes with the territory!

What two lesson books will my child need?

- Sound Innovations, Book 1 for your child's instrument
- Concert Favorites, Volume 1 (yellow stripe on cover) for your child's instrument

Why does my child need a folding music stand? Can't he just put the book on the table?

Every child needs a folding music stand for two reasons: one, to play and practice with correct posture, and two, for use at concerts and band rehearsals.

What about drummers? What equipment will they need?

Drum students learn to play on a practice pad. It is lighter and easier to carry than a full-sized snare drum and much quieter. Having 3 or more drum students in a room playing snare drums would be very loud and even damaging to the child's hearing. Drum pads offer the same feel as a snare drum without the volume. When students enter Hadley Junior High, they will also need a bell kit in order to learn to play the mallet instruments such as xylophone and marimba.

My child wants to play saxophone (or Oboe, or French Horn or Tuba). Why does she need to start on a different instrument?

As educators, we want our students to be as successful as possible on their instrument. Certain instruments are a little big or heavy or challenging for students to begin playing on. We recommend the following progression of Initial Instruments and Step-Up Instruments for the most success in band.

Start this Initial Instrument:

Clarinet...
Flute...
Trumpet
Trombone...
Baritone...

Then move to this Step-Up Instrument:

Saxophone, Oboe, Bassoon, Tuba
Piccolo, Oboe, Bassoon, Tuba
French horn, Baritone, Tuba
French horn, Baritone, Tuba
French horn, Trombone, Tuba

When does my child switch to his or her Step-Up Instrument?

During the month of November, I will evaluate those students who plan on switching. I look for certain criteria, which I can share with you at a later date. Students who are committed to and successful on their Initial Instrument will be recommended to switch to their Step-Up Instrument ***immediately after the Winter Concert and before Winter Break.***

This means that parents will need to arrange with the music company for the initial instrument to be returned and the step-up instrument delivered for the week after the Winter Concert. The band director can not arrange the switch as the rental contract is not in our name. The person whose name is on the contract needs to contact the music company to make the change.

When is the first band lesson?

Band lessons start the week of Labor Day. Instruments will be delivered to school and distributed by the band director to the students during this week. If your child will be bringing an instrument from home, he or she will need the lesson books and instrument at this time. Lesson schedules will be distributed to your child's classroom during this week.

How are the lesson groups structured?

Students are placed in a group lesson of the same or similar instruments. Students are taken out of class for about 30 minutes each week. Lessons are scheduled on a rotating basis so that students do not miss the same class time each week. Students may arrange with Mrs. Weiland ahead of time if there is a conflict.

How much should a beginning student practice?

To be successful in any endeavor, practice is necessary. When a child is first learning to play, he or she should practice 15-20 minutes a day, for, 5 days in a row. A beginning student will not have much endurance, so two shorter periods of practice may be more beneficial. For example, two 15-minute sessions a day, for five days in a row might be a good choice.

Please work with your child to find a practice time that suits your family schedule the best. Some children practice in the morning before school starts. Others practice right after school, or after dinner. Just as you require your child to brush his or her teeth, you can require him to practice on a regular schedule. *Quality* is as important as *Quantity*. Practice for results not minutes!

What can I do as a parent? I don't know anything about music!

Actually, parents are the most important part of success in band! Your outlook towards practice, rehearsals and concerts plays a big part in your child's feelings towards playing an instrument. You don't have to know anything about music because you know a lot about encouraging your child and having a positive attitude!

Feel free to attend some lessons and rehearsals. Listen to your child practice at home. Positive reinforcement with **consistent** and **quality practice** is the key to success! Keep in touch with the band director and contact me when you have a question or concern. A minor problem that is resolved quickly can be prevented from turning into a crisis!

How can I reach you if I have a question?

The best way to reach me is by email – jweiland@d41.org.

If you do not have a computer, then feel free to call me at 630-534-7657. As a travelling teacher, I do not have a dedicated phone line that I can answer if you call me. I have voicemail and all of my calls go directly to voicemail so it may take me a little longer to respond.

Your child is going to embark on an amazing journey of music, learning, expression and confidence-building. As a music educator, my philosophy is that learning to play an instrument means more than learning music – it means learning about yourself. I thank you for giving me the opportunity to share this journey with your child.

Jan Weiland

Beginning Band Director

Ben Franklin, Churchill, Forest Glen and Lincoln Schools

jweiland@d41.org

630-534-7657

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Jan Weiland, Beginning Band Director jweiland@d41.org

5th Grade Beginning Band Registration Form

Completion of this form will register your child for the 2010-2011 5th Grade Beginning Band Program. ** Please note that Glen Ellyn School District #41 collects a participation fee to offset the cost of operating certain school district programs. Students who participate in band are required to pay a \$30.00 fee. **The school district will mail an invoice in July, which will include band and other fees.**

Student Name _____ School: BF CH FG LIN

Student date of birth _____

Home Phone _____ Work/Cell Phone _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

VERY IMPORTANT! Email _____

All Beginning Band information is emailed to parents on a periodic basis. Please print clearly.

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Instrument Chosen:

Flute Clarinet Trumpet Trombone Baritone Drums

Step-Up Instrument: My child is interested in playing the step-up instrument circled below. I understand that my child will be evaluated in November for skills on his or her start-up instrument, and if proficient, he or she move to the step-up instrument right after the Winter Concert, and before Winter Break. I understand that I will have to contact the Music Rental Company to make the switch.

Oboe Saxophone French Horn Tuba

Please help us get to know your child better:

*Does your child have any medical issues that the band teacher should be aware of? _____

*Does your child currently play an instrument? _____

How long has he or she played? _____ Can he/she read music? _____

*Is there any other information about your child that you feel the band director should know, such as allergies, asthma, etc.?

