

# Weinberg Elementary

## Beginning of the Year Band Information

Please join **Remind** to get updates on Band

5<sup>th</sup> Grade @**weinband5**

6<sup>th</sup> Grade @**weinband6**

### FAQs

***When does band start?*** During the first week of class students visit the music teachers to decide which class (Band, Orchestra, or General Music) they want to join. If they have decided, they just come and get information. If they don't know, they have to decide by Friday, 7/26. The first regular day of band is Tuesday, 7/30.

***Does my child need an instrument the first day/When do we need to have an instrument?*** Students should NOT bring an instrument the first week of school. The first day they should bring one is Tuesday, 7/30. All students should be bringing instruments to class by 8/5.

### ***Which instrument is my child playing?***

- New students can choose from the following instruments:

Flute	Clarinet	Alto Saxophone	Trumpet
Trombone	Baritone	Percussion (students start on bell kit)	
- The spring band forms ask the student for 3 choices so the student thinks about different possibilities. **Your student can pick any of the instruments above.**
- Returning students should play the same instrument. Those who would like to switch instruments, including to bass clarinet, tenor saxophone, and tuba, should talk with me.

***Should I buy or rent an instrument, and what are good stores?*** I suggest you rent first. The stores I have experience with all provide good instruments because they want you to have a good experience and come back. It is appropriate for you to visit multiple stores to compare pricing, repair procedures, rent-to-own options, and service.

Buying online, especially when a buying new instrument is cheaper than renting one for a year, is a much riskier proposition. Often, low priced instruments are also of low quality. I know some repairmen who refuse to work on certain brands because they know it will break again and they don't want be blamed. Please feel free to contact me before you buy.

***What if I can't afford to rent or buy?*** There are a couple of options. The first of which is applying for district instruments, which are available at minimal cost. Contact me or visit the front office for a form.

***What book do they need?*** Standard of Excellence, Book 1. Advanced band will start the year in this book for review purposes. I will notify you when Book 2 is needed.

***What other supplies do we need?***

- All woodwinds should have swabs or rods to dry out the instrument
- Clarinets and Saxophones should always have 4 good reeds. Start with #2, the brand is up to you. Advanced players should start on a 2.5, or 3 (if they practiced regularly over the summer).
- Clarinet and Saxophones also need cork grease.
- Brass players should have a mouthpiece brush, a snake for cleaning the tubes, tuning slide grease, and valve oil (slide oil or cream & spray bottle for trombone)
- Percussion players should have a bell kit and mallets, a snare drum or practice pad, and drum sticks.

**Other Important information:**

- Students are committing to playing the full school year.
- While it is “special”, **band is graded and treated as a class, not as a club** – students are expected to put forth their best effort and do “homework” in the form of practicing the instrument.
- We will be performing required concerts outside of regular school hours. Those dates will be announced early in the year on the website and through Remind.

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