



Join 6th Grade Band!

Hello Fifth Grade caregivers and students!

What is the most important priority for all caregivers? THE FUTURE HAPPINESS OF THEIR CHILD! We would like to invite your child to be a part of a class that will help them to become happy, fulfilled, and successful - band!

The discipline of music-making is transferable to every learning situation in and outside the academic community. There is no substitute or replacement for music-making as it relates to the positive growth and development of the human mind, body, and spirit. Participation in band opens the door to the infinite journey of creative expression, connecting a language (music) that is understood, communicated, and appreciated by all of mankind around the globe. More importantly, MUSIC IS A PLACE FOR EVERYONE.

The Sun Prairie Band Program has a long history of helping students to find success. We would love to have the opportunity to work with your child and to welcome you into our band family!

As you look at this information, please do not hesitate to reach out to any of us with comments or questions.

Gratefully,
Sun Prairie Band Staff

What instruments
can I choose?

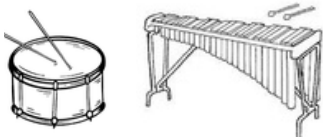
Flute



Clarinet



Percussion



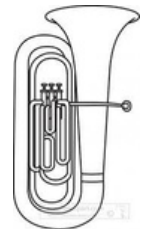
Trumpet



Trombone



*Euphonium
& Tuba*



What about the other
band instruments?

We have found that having students start on one of the core instruments has allowed them to start more successfully.

We will invite interested students to begin the study of the oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, french horn, and saxophone in the winter or spring of their 6th grade year.

A Special Note About Percussion

The percussionist is a special and unique member of the band. They are the musicians called upon to play thirty to forty different instruments by the end of high school. The percussion student therefore, must learn to read both treble and bass clef, have a good sense of rhythm, and it can be an advantage to have piano experience.

Because the percussion section is so different from other sections, there will be auditions. We need to maintain a balanced instrumentation; therefore we need to balance the number of percussionists in the band. Previous experience with percussion instruments does not guarantee that you will be selected for percussion through this audition process. For these reasons, be sure that you have a second choice ready if you are not selected for percussion.

In order to help students prepare for the audition, we will have percussion workshops - please read dates on the next page.

How do I sign up?

○ Step #1 (JANUARY): 6th Grade Registration:

- Select BAND of the four options: band, choir, orchestra, and general music.
- Students can also choose another music class (up to two), if interested.

○ Step #2 (MARCH): Mouthpiece Samplings @ Elementary Schools

- In March all students have the opportunity to do mouthpiece sampling during the day at their elementary school.
- Students will try five mouthpieces including the flute head joint, clarinet, trumpet, trombone/euphonium, and tuba mouthpieces.
- Students will select their best two choices

○ Step #3 (APRIL): Percussion Workshop & Audition - only for students interested in percussion

- Students interested can attend the percussion workshops (to help prepare students for the audition)
- WORKSHOPS will be (not required, but recommended):
 - April 16 (at PMMS), 3:45 - 4:45pm
 - April 17 (at PVMS), 3:45 - 4:45pm
- AUDITIONS for percussion will take place at PMMS, PVMS, and CHMS on April 23.
 - Students audition at their future middle school
 - Begin at 3:45 - 5:15pm, students audition in order of arrival

○ Step #4 (APRIL 29 & MAY 1): Instrument Fitting Night @ Patrick Marsh Middle School

- Students will have an opportunity to try their top two recommended instruments and select their final choice. We work to help students find an instrument they are excited about and is a good fit.
- Make arrangements to rent an instrument
- Sign up for Band Starts Now! (Aug. 19 - 23)

****PLEASE NOTE that we do not want finances to be a barrier anyone considering band. We will work with you to discuss a number of options!****

When Does Band Start?

- **WHAT? Band Starts Now!** - a five day class where students meet in like- instrument classes for 90 minutes each day. The class is offered as a Sun Prairie School District Summer School Enrichment Course
- **WHEN?** Monday, August 19th - Friday, August 23rd
- **WHERE?** Your child's future middle school.
- **COST?** There is no fee for this course.
- **CAN'T MAKE IT?** While this is the best opportunity for students to get started, each school will also beginning classes during the first week of classes, right after school.

Questions?

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