

Parent/Guardian Information Packet 2019/20

Dear Parent/Guardian,

This is a wonderful time in your child's life. The decision to join band is a big one. While it is a commitment that will take up some of you and your child's time, it is also a commitment that will pay back tenfold. While learning how to play an instrument over the next few years, your child will be involved in an activity that instills the values of hard work, dedication, and cooperation. Your child will be working very closely with his/her peers in lessons and in band. Working this close together will form strong bonds of friendship that may last throughout high school.

While in band, your child must come to one lesson a week, a morning band rehearsal two times a week before school, and practice at home about 20 minutes a day. This takes a lot of dedication and hard work to keep up this sometimes stressful schedule. Finally, when your child performs at the concert at the end of the year, it is all worth the time and effort. Your child will leave the year with the satisfaction of playing a concert in front of the school and community, many lasting friendships for years to come, and hopefully a desire to work even harder next year to build upon what they have already learned. Band is completely voluntary, but I know if your child decides that he/she would like to join, he/she will not regret the decision.

Musically Yours,

Jeffrey Peters

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Choosing an Instrument:

In order for your children to get the best learning and musical experience possible, it is best for the band to be balanced. This means that there should be a certain number of every instrument, so that when your children get together as a whole group they blend together with an equal amount of low, medium, and high sounding instruments. In order to accomplish this, I am asking that each student choose a first and second choice instrument. Then, as students hand in their forms I will fill in the spots available with the first choice instruments. If that section is full, I will place them on their second choice instrument. This will be completely on a first-come first-serve basis. After your child's instrument has been assigned, I will send an email to your child letting them know what instrument they will be playing this year. Once this email has been received, it is your responsibility to rent the instrument as soon as possible. You may go to any music shop you wish, but the recommended location is Music and Arts Center. You may rent at their store or through their website www.musicarts.com and click on the "Rentals" tab.

Lessons:

Your child will be pulled from class once a week for a 45 minute group lesson. I always try to keep lesson groups to no more than 7 students. The schedule will be on a rotating basis, so your child will not miss the same period on the same day more than twice a year. A sample schedule is attached. If you have questions about how the schedule works, please feel free to email me.

Google Classroom:

During our first lesson, all students will be using their mppanthers.org accounts to sign up for the 4th Grade Band Google Classroom. I will use this to assign practice logs and other assignments. Students will submit their practice logs through the Classroom as well. Please log on with your child and check it out!

Practice Log:

As part of their grade in band, your child will be submitting one practice log per Quarter. This log must be signed by you and your child and is a record of their at-home practice. In order to receive an A on their Practice Log, they must practice an *average* of 90 minutes per week. This time may be spread out over the entire week or done in one day, it is up to you and your child to work out a schedule at home. *If they also play other instruments, that practice time may be included in the log as well.* If a student is on time to every morning band rehearsal during a practice log cycle, they will receive a free 90 minutes on their log. The logs are submitted approximately every 9 weeks, so there would need to be a total 810 minutes on their log (90 x # of weeks = total # of minutes required). All practice logs will be assigned and submitted through Google Classroom.

Band:

Your child will be **required** to come to two morning rehearsals per week beginning in November (information will be sent home mid-October). Band begins at 7:45 AM and will meet on Monday and Thursdays. Please make arrangements to get your child to school now so that you are ready come November.

Performance Opportunities:

This year, your child will perform in the Spring Concert. In following years, your child will have the opportunity to perform at the High School Marching Band's Home Show "Music in the Park", the Tree Lighting, the Winter Concert, and the Spring Concert. There will also be a fun activity at the end of the year for all Highland Band students.

Remind:

In order to provide you with the most up-to-date announcements, I ask that you please sign-up with the Beginning Band Remind alerts. The information on how to do this is attached. This will allow you to receive notifications and updates regarding lessons, assignments due and the morning band rehearsal schedule.

Important Dates to Remember:

Friday September 13: Sign Up Forms Due - Remember, the sooner this form is turned in, the more likely your child will play his/her first choice instrument. The link to the Google Form is on the 4th Grade Band website

Monday September 23: Lessons Begin this week - Please have your instrument rented by this date

****Important**** If you are not able to rent an instrument for any reason, please contact me via email, Highland front office, or a note and we may be able to work something out. Band is for **everyone!**

Join Remind for alerts and updates!

Text @68728b to the number 81010

You'll receive a welcome text from Remind.

(You can also download the app)

Group	Clarinet 1				
Name		Folder #	Name		Folder #
John	Florence	12			
Bruce	Irons	13			
Coco	Ho	14			
Carissa	Moore	15			
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1					7-Oct
2					14-Oct
3					21-Oct
4				15-Sep	28-Oct
7				22-Sep	
8				29-Sep	
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	31-Oct	13-Dec	25-Jan	8-Mar	27-Apr
2	7-Nov	20-Dec	1-Feb	15-Mar	4-May
3	14-Nov	3-Jan	8-Feb	22-Mar	11-May
4	21-Nov	10-Jan	15-Feb	29-Mar	18-May
7	28-Nov	17-Jan	29-Feb	5-Apr	
8	5-Dec			19-Apr	
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	21-May				
2	28-May				
3	4-Jun				
4	11-Jun				
7	18-Jun				
8					