

West Branch Local Schools

Beginner Band Info. 2022

**Welcome to 5th grade band! Please try to have your instrument and book no later than our first group lesson on Wednesday June 8th!*

Instrumental Music Education has many benefits:

- Increases success in all other academic subjects.
- Builds great character, confidence, self-esteem, and quality social skills.
- It is one of the most powerful tools for developing the brain!
- Band is a scheduled, graded class in grades 5-12 here at West Branch.
- West Branch is nationally recognized (9X) for quality music education!

The Importance of Practice:

- Parent responsibilities-
 - Provide instrument, equipment, and encouragement!
 - Create time and an area for regular practice.
- Student responsibilities-
 - Spend about 15-20 minutes 2-3 times per week working on assigned lesson material.
 - Remember band supplies for all scheduled rehearsals and lesson groups.

Fifth Grade Band Checklist

1. A quality ***brand-name instrument*** (see attached list) that is in perfect working condition and the appropriate supplies.
 - Clarinets and saxophones should have plenty of size 2 ½ reeds and a washable cleaning swab.
 - Flutes should have a washable cleaning cloth and tuning rod.
 - Trumpets and trombones should have valve/slide oil.
 - Percussionists should have a complete kit that includes: practice pad, bell set, stand, sticks, and mallets.
2. ***Method Book - Standard of Excellence (Enhanced) Book 1.***
(Instrument specific)
3. ***Music stand for at home practice.***
4. Designated time and place for ***practice*** at home.

Approved Instrument Brand Names

Be careful! All instruments are not created equal! Some equipment you may find is inferior quality and will not play very well. Some of these even have brand names similar to quality products! However, there are many fine quality band instruments on the market today. These can be found new and used at a reputable music store. Many times, a gently used instrument can also be found from a friend, family member, or neighbor. As a general rule, I do not recommend you buy an instrument from department stores, wholesale clubs, or internet sites. These instruments (many are made in China or India) are usually inferior quality, play poorly, and break easily. These instruments are also difficult to repair and replacement parts are next to impossible to find. I would hate to see your child become frustrated with an inferior quality instrument that always has problems. Trying to buy an instrument from a pawn shop can be a real gamble as well. Many times, these instruments are not cleaned or even play tested! When in doubt, please email me. I will be happy to help! The approved instruments on the following list are those that are manufactured using quality materials and craftsmanship. They will stand up to daily wear and tear and can be easily repaired when needed. As a general rule, Made in USA and Made in Japan are the highest quality and most reliable. Made in Taiwan instruments are pretty good as well. However, try to stay away from wind instruments made in China and India. Their quality control and manufacturing standards have not quite reached an acceptable level.

Mr. Stehura

Bryan.Stehura@wbwarriors.org

Flute

Armstrong
Artley
Bundy (USA only)
Emerson
Gemeinhardt (USA only)
Jupiter
Selmer
Yamaha

Clarinet

Armstrong
Bundy (USA only)
Buffet
Evette
Jupiter
Leblanc
Noblet
Normandy
Selmer
Vito
Yamaha

Alto Saxophone

Armstrong
Bundy (USA only)
Buffet
Conn
Evette
Jupiter
King
Martin
Selmer
Vito
Yamaha

Percussion Kit

Ludwig
Pearl
Tama
Yamaha

Trumpet/Cornet

Bach (USA only)
Benge
Besson
Bundy (USA only)
Conn
Holton
Jupiter
King
Yamaha

Trombone

Bach (USA only)
Benge
Besson
Bundy (USA only)
Conn
Holton
Jupiter
King
Yamaha