

Our Fathers Lutheran School Band Handbook



2019-20

The Purpose of the Band Program at Our Fathers

The purpose of the Our Fathers Band program is to train students in God's gift of music, which gives a language of worship and a means of creativity and self-expression.

Band member learn basic principles of music through instruction, participation, experience, and leadership in an environment of encouragement and creativity. Students build upon these life-long skills in a variety of ways, including:

- understanding music in a variety of contexts
- serving with their instruments in worship services
- continued study of their instruments in high school and beyond
- using their creative and analytical skills in many vocations

Membership Expectation: Year-Long Commitment

Band is designed to be a positive learning experience that students will carry with them throughout their lives. As the year progresses, students develop a sense of pride in the skills they learn and what they as individuals bring to the whole of the ensemble. For this reason, **enrollment in band is for the entire season**, which begins in early September and concludes in early June. **Each member is expected to remain active and committed for the entire year.** Besides helping children to understand commitment, this allows enough time for students to experience the benefits of long-term membership in the band. In addition, members of the band learn to rely upon one another's presence and assistance, and commitment for a full year creates continuity within the group.

Please contact the director if an unusual situation occurs that prohibits a band member from honoring this one-year commitment.

Trial Period for Beginning Band members: Beginning an instrument requires adjustment in schedule, organization, and priorities. Some students are initially excited about learning an instrument, but lose momentum if they have difficulty balancing band with other activities or find that learning an instrument is work as well as fun. As a parent, you have significant impact on your child's success in band. However, it is possible that you and your child will decide that participation in band is not the best thing for your should this year. If this is the case, it will probably become clear within a month or two. **For this reason, Beginning Band members are given a trial period until the end of October. After November 1st, we ask that you honor the year-long commitment.**

Rehearsals and Lessons

Lessons	Tuesday	Morning before lunch
Full Band	Tuesday	11:20am

Lessons for 5th-8th grade students. Students have either individual lessons or are grouped in pairs, according to their playing level and instrument. Lessons are given during the school day on Tuesdays.

All band rehearsals and lessons are in the Science / Art Room.

Students are responsible for all music they are given. Band folders/music should be kept in the students' assigned shelf unless they have taken it home to practice. Lost music will result in a \$2.50 replacement fine for each piece.

What does it mean to be on time to band rehearsal?

A student is on time to band rehearsal when he/she is

- in his/her seat
- with all materials (pencil, instrument, music)
- ready to rehearse 3 minutes after the bell

Practice

Playing an instrument with skill and confidence requires an investment of practice time.

Band members are expected to practice outside of school band rehearsals and lessons. Practice goals are as follows:

6th-8th Grade Band: 100 minutes per week

5th Grade: 75 minutes per week

If you find your child struggling to meet this goal, please contact the director for strategies to help your child stay focused.

How to fill out your practice chart

1. Record the minutes you practice each day
2. The night before your lesson, your parent or guardian should sign your practice chart for the week
3. Turn in your practice chart at your lesson.

The best way to practice is to work a small amount each day.

If you miss a day, you may practice more minutes each other day to “make up” the time, but **do not** try to squeeze all of your minutes into one day – you will probably end up very tired and may hurt the muscles you use to play.

Grading

1. Participation

- Five point will be given weekly for on time attendance to rehearsals and lessons and coming with instrument, music, method book, and pencil. **If a student forgets his/her instrument 3 times during the semester, they will be given a written warning.**

2. Practice

Students will be graded on the amount of practicing they complete during the week. This is done outside of school. Each practice journal is worth 10 points. Students will fill out a weekly practice card and will need a parent’s signature every week. Practice is essential to developing proper technique, memory, and progress. **A written warning will be given to students if they fail to turn in 3 practice cards during the semester. Even if students do not meet the 75 or 100 minute goal for the week, it is important to turn in a practice card with whatever minutes they have practiced, along with a parent signature.**

3. Concerts

- The Christmas and Spring Concerts will be worth **50 points** each. Full points will be awarded if the performer shows up on time, dressed properly, and participates in the concert.

4. Pencil Checks

- Pencils are an important piece of equipment in the band classroom. Easy access to a pencil means the students are writing down tips and reminders from the teacher, rather than relying on their memory. Pencils easily fit in each instrument case, and it's a quick grab to remember it as they go to their seat. Random Pencil Checks will take place throughout the year. **Pencils must be on the music stand within arms' reach, and every student must have their own pencil.** Each Pencil Check will be worth **2 points**.

6. Playing Quizzes

- Playing Quizzes are reserved for difficult sections of the band literature and scales. Students will be notified of playing tests at least two weeks in advance, along with the material to be tested. These tests will occur during the student's lesson, and grades will be given to them within the same week. Plan on having at least one Performance Quiz each quarter. Each quiz will be worth **10 points**.

7. Other assignments

- There will be other small assignments throughout the year as well, nothing worth more than **15 points**. Examples include: listening assignments, reaction papers to rehearsals and concert, etc.

When band rehearsals conflict with school or extra-curricular activities...

Attendance at rehearsals, group lessons, and chapel services (if the whole band is playing) is mandatory if the student is present at school that day. If a conflict should arise with a teacher (test, another rehearsal, etc.) that will be worked out with that teacher.

Attendance at all concerts is mandatory. This isn't just for my peace of mind knowing that every part will be covered, but it's also for your students' benefit. They have worked very hard in lessons and rehearsals to prepare a wonderful concert to glorify God and showcase their abilities. It is only proper that they be given the necessary outlet for these talents at concerts. We only have two major concerts a year, so I'm asking that you put sports games and practices on hold for just those two evenings. Promptness and participation for the concerts is graded. **Students must bring in a signed note by the parent at least one month prior to a concert in order for that absence to be excused without any grade penalty.** Consideration will be given to emergency situations.

Instrument rental

See Elementary Band Brochure.

Contacting Mr. Wiele

Your child's development is very important to me! Since you know his or her needs best, I always appreciate hearing your questions or concerns.

You are always welcome to contact me by email: kwiele@martinlutherhs.org

Our Fathers Band 2019-2020 Schedule

Events in bold print involve all band members

August 22	10:30am	All-instrument demo in Gym
September 3	7:00pm	Parent Meeting at MLHS

September 10	school day	Lessons start
September 16	6:30pm	Monday Night Band starts*
December 20	6:30pm	Christmas Play
March 7	all day	Solo & Ensemble Contest
May 15	6:00pm	Spring Fair

*See Elementary Band brochure for details about Monday Night Band

Statement of Understanding

My band student and I have read and discussed the Our Fathers Band Handbook. We understand the grading procedure, the assignments and work that must be put into becoming a successful musician and responsible band member, and that attendance at all concerts is mandatory.

I also know that if any questions or concerns may arise about my child's participation in band throughout the year, contacting Mr. Wiele as soon as possible is essential, and he will answer any question I may have.

- Please sign below, with your student, and return this page to Mr. Wiele by **Friday, September 20th.**