

Wolf Branch Elementary School

NOON



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Linda A. Tessereau

Director of Bands

Dear Music Students and Families,

Hello and welcome to a new and exciting year of music making! My name is Linda A. Tessereau and I am honored to be the Director of Bands at Wolf Branch Middle School. I attended William Holiday/ Pontiac School then graduated from Belleville East High School. I received a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. I then became the Collegiate Assistant Director of Bands at Collinsville High School for the 1997-1998 school year. From 1998-2003 I was the Director of Bands at Emge Middle School. I also perform part time professionally as a freelance musician and I am a member of the 571st Air Force National Guard Band out of the 131st Fighter Wing at Lambert International Airport.

This handbook is to inform students and parents of information vital to a positive experience in band. Please pay particular attention to the class expectations, attendance policies and the schedule. Both students and parents are asked to read this handbook together. Please complete and sign the agreement form and return it to Mrs. Tessereau or the Wolf Branch Elementary School office by the first day of class.

BAND WEBPAGE

All band information will be distributed through the band webpage which is linked through the Middle School home page>Clubs and Orgs>Wolf Branch Bands. Mrs. Tessereau does not send home paperwork. Please check the webpage frequently. Students will also be notified of any important information as it is being posted (such as field trip permission slips, performance information, etc.)

Should you have difficulty accessing the band webpage or do not have a computer, please contact Mrs. Tessereau as soon as possible.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BAND SUPPLIES

All woodwind players need: (except flute)

1. A minimum of 4 good playing reeds at all times (at least a strength 2 ½)
2. Cork grease.
3. Silk cleaning swab (including flute)

All Brass players need:

1. Valve oil (valve instruments only)
2. Tuning Slide grease
3. Super slick slide grease (slide trombones only)

Percussion players need:

1. Your own sticks
2. Stick bag
3. You **MUST** have a black binder. Percussionists always leave their music lying around and it gets lost!!!

All Band Students Need

1. A black, three ring binder with plastic inserts, to preserve music), several sheets of notebook paper, and several sheets of music staff paper; copies will work (you can also make your own staff paper using a very small underline font on the computer). The binder should have an additional pocket for any loose paper or method books purchased.
2. Erasable colored pencils should be kept in an instrument case/ folder at all times (I will always hand out copies of music.)
3. A folding music stand. This should be used at home for practice. We also use them during performances away from Wolf Branch.
4. Cleaning equipment for instruments.
5. Optional (metronomes and tuners are always suggested for individual practice at home. They can be purchased at any music store.)

All 4th grade band students need:

1. Ed Sueta book 1

BAND RULES

Classroom Rules

1. Be on time, in your seat and ready to learn.
2. **Play only your instrument.**
3. Be respectful of others.
4. Do not talk when the director is on the podium.
5. Stop playing when the director stops conducting.
6. Properly store and take home your instrument, equipment and music.

Other Rules

1. If we are taking a bus to a performance, students **MUST** ride the bus to the performance site and back to Wolf Branch following the performance (if in uniform)!!! An exception can be made in an emergency, but this is the best way to insure that our new band uniforms get back to Wolf Branch safely. (Students will need written notice in advance if riding home with parents.)
2. Students may not ride home with the parent of another student unless Mrs. Tessereau has been given written notice by **EACH STUDENT'S** parents.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is essential to the success of both the individual band student and band as a whole. If someone is not present, both the individual band student and the band loses. By signing up for band, students must understand the commitment they have made to their peers in the band.

Students will be dismissed from band if they have 5 or more unexcused absences!!! Students will be unable to attend field trips with 3 or more unexcused absences!!! Band is during the school day, so this should not be an issue!!!

Band is considered both an academic class and an extracurricular organization. Just as athletics and other extracurricular clubs, students are expected to participate in events outside the normal school day. Each student is vital to the success of our program and everyone needs to be a part of the total curriculum.

Students will be assessed by their promptness and readiness in rehearsals and performances. They must have all necessary materials including their instrument, pencil and music (in the black three ring binder). Students are also expected to abide by very strict classroom rules!!!

4th GRADE (5th GRADE BEGINNERS) LESSONS

4th Grade Band Students (or 5th grade beginners)

Every 4th grade band student is given one (1) private lesson each week. The students will be dismissed from an academic class for a 20 minute lesson.

The homeroom teacher will consult me if I need to change a student's lesson time due to an academic challenge. (We do not want a student who may be struggling in an academic subject, to miss that subject every week.)

As of now, the 4th grade band will perform at the Spring Concert. However, additional performances may be added throughout the year.

Progress Chart

I will have a chart posted in the band room with every band student's name. As they progress through each lesson, they will choose a reward and get a sticker to add to the chart on the wall. The sticker will be put under the lesson number which the student has achieved.

Solo and Ensemble Contest

All 4th grade band students are required to perform a solo at Solo and Ensemble contest. Each student will be assigned a solo that they will perform for a judge. The fee for the contest will be \$15.00 (\$5.00 entry fee and the \$10.00 fee for the accompanist).

Progressing to the 5th Grade Band

All beginning band students are required to purchase the Ed Sueta Method book. Once they have completed Ed Sueta – book 1 (lessons 1 – 25), they will be admitted into the 5th Grade Band.

Please read all of the 5th Grade Band requirements and supplies listed below.

What Happens When The Student Completes Book 1?

The students will need to purchase Ed Sueta Book 2 (lessons 26 – 50)...then book 3 (lessons 51 – 75). Private teachers are permitted to check off lessons. This will enable the students to progress at a faster pace.

5th GRADE FULL BAND

The 5th Grade Band is comprised of 4th and 5th grade band students that have complete all of the lessons in Ed Sueta Book 1. This band practices every Tuesday and Thursday during the 4th and 5th grade study hall time. During this rehearsal, the entire 5th grade band will rehearse together, working music for performances and ensemble development.

Solo and Ensemble Contest

All 5th grade band students are required to perform a solo a solo and ensemble contest. Each student will be assigned a solo that they will perform for a judge. The fee for the contest will be \$15.00 (\$5.00 entry fee and the \$10.00 fee for the accompanist.)

5TH GRADE GROUP LESSONS

5th Grade Lessons

In addition to 5th grade band rehearsals, each student receives one group lesson per week. These lessons are critical for providing the best possible instruction of reach student and the best possible band program. Students will come out of an academic class.

During this time, students will receive instruction that focuses on the techniques of their particular instrument (tone production, embouchure, tuning, scales, rudiments, etc.)

Chair Placements

During group lessons, I will assess each student's progress on the current literature and music concepts that we are currently working on in band class. Each 5th grade band student will be given a chair placement. The higher the chair placement (the highest being 1st chair), the better acquainted the band student is with his/ her instrument and music.

PRACTICING

Students are expected to practice outside of class time just as they do homework in other classes. In order to be fluent on an instrument, each student must spend time practicing the fundamentals of their instrument and the repertoire assigned in band class. Unfortunately, too many young musicians do not take the time to learn these fundamentals such as scales, lip slurs, rhythms, rudiments, etc. and they end up starting from every time a new piece of music is placed in front of them. This can be a very frustrating process. By learning the fundamentals of one's instrument, they can gain more enjoyment from performing music.

In order to develop a good habit of practicing, I suggest that students choose the same time each day to practice. Elementary School students should practice 20 minutes daily.

Students: Even though you may leave a lesson playing a difficult passage perfectly, you must continue to practice the passage at home constantly. You will forget how to play an extremely difficult passage in 1 day!!!

PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

4th Grade Band

The 4th grade band students will perform in black pants, black shoes (sandals are permitted) and a solid white shirt.

5th Grade Band Uniforms

Each band student will be required to wear black pants, black shoes, black socks/hose and a solid white polo shirt. (Jeans, tennis shoes and shorts are not permitted.)

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE CONTEST

This contest is held at Freeburg Elementary School. Any student can perform at this contest. The student will perform a piece with piano accompaniment for a judge. They would learn a piece that a private teacher has assigned them or a piece assigned by Mrs. Tessereau.

The judge will give comments and a rating. The rating will be posted outside the door shortly following their performance. If your student would receive a 1st Superior, 1st or 2nd, he/she would receive his/her medal at the music awards night. The judges comment sheets will be distributed on the day of school attendance.

Each piece will be rated by "class" as follows:

- Class "E" – beginning level
- Class "D" – Easy
- Class "C" – Challenging Jr. High Music
- Class "B" – High School Level Music
- Class "A" – Advanced High School-College Level Music (Only "A" class solos can receive a 1st Superior rating)

4th Grade Band Students

Every 4th grade band student is required to perform a solo for SOLO CONTEST. They will learn a piece titled "I Love You Truly" which is an "E" class solo. See criteria above. If a student has a private teacher, they may learn a more difficult solo.

5th Grade Band Students

It is required for 5th grade band students to take a solo to contest. The students will be working on a solo during group lesson time. This means that all the clarinets, trumpets, flutes, etc. will be taking the same solo. If you student studies privately, the private teacher may choose a more difficult solo.

**WOLF BRANCH BAND AGREEMENT
(RETURN TO MRS. TESSEREAU)**

I understand the commitment of being a member of the Wolf Branch Band Program. I will do my best to carry on the tradition of excellence at Wolf Branch School. By doing this, I understand, the importance of practicing faithfully, as well as excellent attendance at rehearsals, lessons and performances. I understand the policies outlined in this handbook and agree to abide by them and strive for excellence. Failure to abide may result in dismissal from the Wolf Branch Band Program. I understand the field trip procedures as they pertain to attendance to rehearsals and performances.

Elementary students do receive a grade for band in 4th and 5th grade only. This grade is not included in their overall Grade Point Average (GPA). The grade is given primarily based on attendance and effort.

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I DO have access to the band webpage.
 I DO NOT have access to the band webpage

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

Email Address (s) _____

Check this box if you DO NOT have a functioning address.

THIS AGREEMENT MUST BE SIGNED BY BOTH STUDENT AND PARENT

Please return this form to Mrs. Tessereau or the office during the first week of class.