

TRAUGHBER BEGINNING BAND MEMBER INFORMATION

Student Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Elementary School: HC PP SB LC Other _____

PLEASE READ AND COMPLETE THIS DOCUMENT CAREFULLY WITH YOUR CHILD.

Joining Band is more than just an exciting day...

...It is an opportunity...

...Perhaps one of the greatest opportunities in your child's life thus far.

If you are like me, you want your kid(s) to complete their K-12 education with far more than factual knowledge and an ability to score well on tests. You don't believe that your child's success in life depends primarily on cognitive skills — the type of intelligence that is measured on IQ tests and such. You don't believe that school should be primarily focused on stuffing kids' brains with as much factual knowledge as possible, but instead is focused on growing skills and mindsets that will last a lifetime.

And the musical instrument in your child's hand could be the key to learning those skills.

You see, your child didn't receive an instrument with the expectation that they would become a professional musician, just as they did not receive a math book with the expectation of them becoming a mathematician. But, unlike any other subject, your child has the opportunity to develop some of the most important life skills through learning to play an instrument, and you need to let them know this is the case.

Here are three things parents need to know and be able to express to their child as soon as they begin learning to play a musical instrument:

1. To become skilled at a musical instrument — and to become great at anything — one needs to struggle a little. In your child's case, they need to sound bad before they sound good; they need to work on things just beyond what they are capable of in order to get better and smarter, and that means they need to make mistakes. There is a small gap between what we all are able to do and where we want to be, and focusing on that gap makes us better learners and better people. Learning a musical instrument allows us to grow from our mistakes.

2. "Hard works trumps talent every single time." Practicing a skill over and over, the right way, fires circuits in our brains that solidify that skill. Sure, some people find some skills easier at first than others, but the people who practice that skill daily in order to "burn it" into their brain will always far surpass people who don't practice enough. Practicing a musical instrument helps children learn the universal truth that hard work trumps talent.

3. “This is a long-term commitment, and we are going to stick with it.” Studies have shown that students who identified that they would play their instrument for longer than one year outperformed students who only committed to one year of playing by up to 400% – practicing the same amount of time if not less! The ideas and mindsets students bring to their musical instrument study have a direct effect on their success, and it’s the parents’ role to set the tone on the first day by not giving their child an “easy out” to quit. Make the decision to invest in your child’s music education for at least a few years of their schooling and you will see results.

There are not many subjects taught in school that have the potential to give our children the life skills they need to be successful beyond their school lives. Our children can learn how to have grit, motivation, problem-solving skills, flexibility, and character during and after their K-12 schooling – and music is the vehicle to teach these skills.

Parents:

Does your child have Special Education accommodations? YES NO

If yes, what accommodations are included in the plan? _____

Does your child receive special services (speech, etc.) YES NO

If yes, for what areas? _____

Does your child have a 504 Plan? YES NO

If yes, what accommodations are included in the plan? _____

Does your child complete homework (circle the best response)...

- Completely on their own
- With reminders from you
- With a large amount of assistance from you
- Often does not complete homework

Rate your child’s ability in each area (5 is exceptionally strong, 1 is weak in this area)

*The patience to persist at a tough (and perhaps boring) task. 5 4 3 2 1

*The ability to delay gratification. 5 4 3 2 1

*The curiosity and grit to problem solve. 5 4 3 2 1

Band will be one elective space in your child’s schedule. For the other spot in the schedule is your child interested in (circle if interested): CHOIR STUDY HALL

Does your child know how to play any instruments already? YES NO

If yes, which ones? _____

Students, Please Answer the Questions Below:

On a scale of 1 to 10 how hard do you work on your school work? _____

What grades do you usually get in all of your classes? _____

Are you organized? _____

On a scale of 1 to 10 how clean is your room? _____ Your desk at school? _____

Have you ever played a team sport outside of school? YES NO

What athletic activities are you involved in? _____

What do you like to do for fun and non-athletic activities? _____

Would you be willing to take private lessons in addition to band? _____

On a scale of 1 to 10 how interested are you in learning to play an instrument? _____

Please mark which instruments you would like to try today (pick at least 2).

Flute _____

Horn _____

Oboe _____

Cornet/Trumpet _____

Clarinet _____

Trombone _____

Alto Sax _____

Baritone/Tuba _____

Percussion _____

Parents, Please Do Not Write below This Line

Student Evaluation

Percussion

Rhythmic Skills	1	2	3	4
Note Reading	1	2	3	4
Coordination	1	2	3	4

Wind Instruments

Lips/Embouchure very thin thin average full very full
Aperture Formation all very loose loose corners puffing too tight/pinched
Teeth straight very crooked slight overbite strong overbite
 slight underbite strong underbite

Future Braces Yes Maybe No

Finger/Hand Size very small small medium large very large

Ease of Buzzing 1 2 3 4

Ease of Woodwind Embouchure 1 2 3 4

Ease of Flute Embouchure 1 2 3 4

Finger Dexterity 1 2 3 4

Music Teacher Recommendation of work habits: _____

NWEA Percentile Score in Math: _____ Reading: _____

Interest in Private Lessons: _____

Special Notes: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Final Instrument Selection _____

Class Time _____

Teacher Initials _____

Comments: _____

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the Goals of the Band Department?

Enrich student's lives through the understanding and study of music
Help students realize a sense of pride in the work he or she produces through complete preparation and attention to directions
Help students to develop self-control, discipline, and independence
Develop a characteristic tone
Learn and demonstrate all of the fingerings within a basic range
Read musical notation
Recognize and produce basic rhythmic values
Develop good technical habits

What About Band During the School Year?

Students are scheduled into band as part of their daily schedule.
Band meets for 41 minutes every day.
Students receive a grade for band and it is part of their grade point average.
Beginning Band will perform four concerts during the year and participate at the Oswego Band Festival and Solo Recital.

What About Getting an Instrument?

DON'T GET STUCK WITH JUNK!

Wait to get an instrument until AFTER your registration appointment!

Avoid "off brand" instruments-they may not play well for more than a couple of months.
Just because an item is shaped like an instrument does not mean it IS an instrument!

Many foreign made instruments are very inexpensive because they are made with:
Poor materials and soft metals
Inferior craftsmanship
Non-standard parts
They may also have problems
with tuning and tone quality.

Beginners will struggle with a poor quality instrument. Local music stores cannot do repairs because parts are not readily available.

What About Extra Help?

- *Students can be paired with an older student coach for the month of August if needed
- *Coaches will reinforce the work done in the band classes
- * Students are encouraged to consider private lessons in addition to band class after summer band has started! *Contact your band director for a list of private lesson teachers!

Why Band?

- *Music power is brain power *Music develops: problem solving skills, teamwork, goal-setting, self-expression, kinesthetic development, memory skills, self-confidence, concentration, and most of all...
- *Music is a form of intelligence that all children should have access to!

Will band interfere with student's grades in other classes?

- *No!
- *It has been found that students participating in school instrumental music programs generally average higher grades in other subjects.

Do students have to take private lessons?

- *Students are not required to take private lessons, however, your child will experience much greater success and enjoyment with private study.
- *It is the policy of the Junior High School Band programs that all students are strongly encouraged to take lessons.
- *We offer a list of suitable teachers that work well with young students.

Can a student be in band and other activities?

- *Yes!
- *We work very hard to allow our students to be involved in as much as possible.
- *Flexibility and compromise are key to success.
- *Nearly all of our band students are involved in sports, drama or art, in addition to band.

What if we already have an instrument?

- *Please bring your instrument to your child's appointment.
- *We will inspect the instrument to make sure that it works correctly.
- *Keep an open mind-your child may not be a match with the instrument that you already own.