

## **Lake Washington Region Elementary Band Program at Rose Hill Middle School**

*Serving Audubon, Ben Rush, Ben Franklin, Mark Twain and Rose Hill Elementary Schools*

*Directors: Mrs. Laulainen & Mr. Chapin*

The Lake Washington School District provides group instrumental music instruction for all 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. The goals of this program are to introduce the student to performing music on an instrument, working within a group of other musicians, and help them progress to performing groups at the Middle School and Senior High level. The Lake Washington Region instrumental music program has been very successful for several years, and we hope you and your child will choose to take part in this exciting and beneficial program.

### **How do we get started?**

The students will be seeing a demonstration of all of the instruments within the first two weeks of school, and should decide along with their parents which instrument they would like to play. There will also be an Information Night on Monday Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> at Rose Hill Middle School in the Cafeteria from 7:00 to 8:00 PM. Information will be available from the band instructor and also instruments will be available from a local music store. Band will start for 4<sup>th</sup> Graders on Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **Where, when and how?**

#### **When do the band classes meet?**

All band classes meet from 7:35—8:20 AM. The first 10 minutes are warm up and individual assistance. Students who ride the bus can come in as soon as they arrive at RHMS. There are two rehearsals per week for 4<sup>th</sup> Graders. All 4<sup>th</sup> Graders will come every Wednesday, and will also come either on Mondays or Fridays (schedule to be determined). See the schedule here:

#### **Schedule:**

*Mondays = 4<sup>th</sup> Grade - To Be Determined*

*Tuesdays = 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Full Band (all instruments)*

*Wednesdays = 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Full band rehearsal (all instruments together)*

*Thursdays = 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Full Band (all instruments)*

*Fridays = 4<sup>th</sup> Grade - To Be Determined*

#### **Where do the band classes meet?**

The elementary band classes meet in the band room at Rose Hill Middle School. The band room is very close to the main entrance in our new building.

#### **How does my student get to band and to their elementary school?**

Students have three options to get to Rose Hill Middle School:

- 1) If they are within walking distance, they may walk
- 2) if a Middle School bus serves their neighborhood, they may take that to school if room allows.
- 3) many band student families form carpools to get them to the Middle School.

At the end of band classes each day, all students are bussed back to their elementary schools.

#### **How much class time will they miss?**

Students should get to their school fairly close to the start of the school day and should miss none or very minimal instructional time in their class. Teachers are supportive of the band program.

#### **Are there concerts?**

Yes, we usually have two or three performances each year, one in early December, and another at the end of the year in May.

#### **Will band interfere with other activities?**

Band is a fantastic opportunity for you and your family. We know how busy students and families are and we are always proud to have accomplished athletes, dancers, actors, hobbyists, and other interesting people sign up for band. We try to schedule our rehearsals and concerts as sensitively as possible so students can still pursue their homework and outside interests. Band is yet another way to become a well-rounded person. Students involved in patrol at their elementary may make arrangements with the band teacher when conflicts arise.

## What instruments do we get to play?

### What instruments are available to study?

Although there are many instruments in the Rose Hill bands, some are not suitable for beginners. Several of these are intended to be switched TO after one or two years on a similar instrument. Beginners may choose from the following band instruments (brass, and especially LOW brass are suggested for those who are undecided. All band directors LOVE to have more low brass players).

Flute (Woodwind)    Trumpet (High Brass)    Clarinet (Woodwind)  
Trombone (Low Brass)    Baritone B.C. (Low Brass)    Bells (Percussion)

**Students who eventually wish to play Percussion** must start on the bells. This allows us better to teach critical note-reading skills to all students and develop the mallet skills all percussionists need.

**Students who play Trombone, Baritone or Percussion** need to have an instrument at home but will be provided an instrument for use at school. These instruments are too large to be taken back and forth on the bus.

### Can my child start on saxophone?

Students who wish to play saxophone should all start on clarinet and will eventually be auditioned and then may double on saxophone. Starting on the clarinet develops a better tonal concept and quality of sound in the individual player. Students who begin on clarinet and later double on saxophone also benefit from the ability to play more than one instrument. Once a clarinet player learns up to a certain level of notes and physical control of the instrument, saxophone is an EASY double.

## What do we need?

### What equipment does my child need?

Each student will need **an instrument**, the required accessories, a book, and a pencil. Please have a folder in which to put the book, sheet music, and any informational letters.

The accessories include:

- Flute: cleaning rod and a handkerchief or soft cloth for cleaning
- Clarinet: cork grease, a drop through style cleaning cloth, and a minimum of five #2 clarinet reeds.
- Trumpet: valve oil, and a soft cleaning cloth.
- Trombone: slide oil and a soft cleaning cloth
- Baritone B.C.: valve oil, and a soft cleaning cloth
- Mallet Percussion: Bell Mallets

### What book should we buy?

The band students will be reading music from a book called **Accent on Achievement – Book One**. Please make sure that you purchase the book designated for your student's instrument. These books are available at all the local music retail stores. We will be writing in them so it's important that they have their own.

### Where do we get an instrument?

Most students rent band instruments from a local music store. If you already own an instrument in the family for your child to play, please have it checked out by a repair technician or one of the band directors to make sure it is playable. Please use a nametag on ALL cases. To find a quality instrument, we recommend inquiring at an established local music store and avoid instruments with no name brand. NOTE: Some instruments that are sold at Big Box stores work fine at first, but later develop problems which are not repairable. For example, a cheaply manufactured trumpet after use the valves wear and metal fragments catch in valve casing. This problem cannot be repaired, the valves stick and the student then becomes frustrated and cannot play the instrument.

### I don't have my instrument or book yet. Should I still START band?

YES! We can wait for your instrument or book to show up but there's information you need from the very first rehearsal. Please show up even if you're empty-handed.