



Beginning Band at SJCS

Dear Fifth Grade Parents,

August 26, 2009

This letter is an invitation! Starting in Fifth Grade at SJCS, students have the option of joining band. Playing an instrument promotes critical thinking skills, worship expression, self-discipline, teamwork, and positive self-esteem.

If you and your child are interested in band, start by reading this letter. In the next few school days another letter will be sent home with interested students. Band is optional. All Grade 5 Band rehearsals are held during the school day on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Enrollment forms will be sent home with interested students. Students choosing not to be in band will have study hall during the band rehearsal.

Financial considerations: There is no extra tuition charged to you from the school for band instruction. However, each family will be financially responsible to:

- Rent or purchase an instrument. (See the back of this page or the "Buying Instruments" paper for more information.)
- Purchase The Yamaha Advantage Book 1 (blue cover) for the instrument chosen.
- Purchase necessary instrument supplies. (Music stores sell complete cleaning kits.)
- Purchase one set of 50 spiral bound note cards. (Listed on the Grade 5 supply list.)

Choosing an instrument can be difficult for some students. The next few days we will be studying and reviewing each band instrument. We will talk about all the considerations in choosing an instrument. Students who are uncertain of which instrument to choose will get a chance to try playing up to two different instruments. Instruments can also be tried at any local music store such as Music Village (www.musvil.com) or Starving Musician.

Instrument Choices & First Rehearsal Dates

- Brass (Please have instrument, supplies, & book by Sept. 8): trumpet, French horn (private lessons required), trombone, baritone, tuba.
- Percussion (Please have instrument, supplies, & book by Sept. 9): snare drum (private drum lessons required), or xylophone/bells.
- Woodwind (Please have instrument, supplies & book by Sept. 10): flute, clarinet, alto saxophone.

Obtaining an instrument:

- If borrowing, be sure the instrument is in working order. Repair shops are very busy this time of year—overhauls can take 2-3 weeks. Make an appointment as soon as possible. See Mrs. Baham for recommendations.
- If renting, shop around at various music stores (see the yellow pages). Consider the shop's distance from your home, as repairs are likely. Rentals run from \$30 - \$60/month depending on the type, size and age of the instrument. If renting, you might consider buying your own mouthpiece. SJCS has a small number of instruments available for lease.
- If buying, look around. Check local newspaper ads, music stores, or our school's instrument catalogs. Be careful when buying online. **Buy only name brand instruments. Instrument-buying guidelines are described in detail in Mrs. Baham's "Buying Instruments" sheet.** Consider buying a new mouthpiece if the instrument you purchase is not new. Sometimes I hear about instruments for sale. Feel free to ask me.

Commitment to band is one year. Typically Fifth Grade students are excited for the first few weeks. After the initial excitement leaves, the first lessons in self-discipline will begin! **Please help your child by setting up a daily practice routine** and encouraging them in their progress. Daily practice will be critical to your child's progress and success. **Band is worth the effort!**

I look forward to working with your child this year. Please feel free to call if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Baham

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Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

