

ALTON COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.  
11

# 5<sup>th</sup> GRADE BAND HANDBOOK



Dear Parents:

Band lessons have finally started at school! By now all students should have an instrument, *Standard of Excellence Book 1 w/CD* and the other necessary items to help them become successful band members. Students are pulled from class once a week for a half hour lesson. They are expected to keep up on all class work missed while at band. Please remind your child to bring his/her instrument on lesson days. Even missing only a few lessons can set a student back considerably.

**Please be advised of the district policy about participating in orchestra, band and chorus. In order for your child to play he/she MUST be doing well in all of their subjects in school. I will check your child's grade with his/her teacher on a monthly basis. If your child is failing in one or more subjects, he/she must withdraw from band until the grades are brought up to passing.**

Home practice is vital to a students' musical success. Encourage your child to practice every day for about 10 to 15 minutes. After the excitement of playing a new instrument wears off, a little prodding on your part may be needed to get your child to practice. Adherence to a regular practice schedule is essential for a student's musical development and achievement. Your child should practice in a room away from the TV and radio. During home practice your child should review materials covered in class and prepare for the next lesson. Please, do not hesitate to give encouragement when you begin to recognize songs.

Performances this year will take place in December and May. Flyers will go home prior to these concerts informing you of dates and times.

There are many exciting things happening in the band program within the Alton School District. I hope you and your child will enjoy being a part of our outstanding music program. Please call me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely:

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Directors

Mr. Gary Banks, Mr. Matthew Banks, Ms. Alyssa Cudney, Mr. Tim Jarden

## WHAT DO I NEED FOR 5TH GRADE Band?

\*Instrument

\**Standard of Excellence Book 1 w/CD.*

Soft cloth; handkerchiefs, or any type of cotton cloth. Wipe off your instrument.

\*Reeds (Woodwind Players) & Reed Case

\*Valve oil (Brass Player)

\*Cleaning Swab (Woodwind Players)

Pencil; keep this in your case

\*Folding music stand: stays at home for practice.

\*Cleaning Snake (Brass players).

\*Drum Sticks and Mallets (Percussion Players).

**Please have all of the above listed materials before our next class.**

**DO NOT PURCHASE INSTRUMENTS FROM PAWN SHOPS OR INTERNET SITES!!**

**Alton Area Full-Service Music Dealer:**

Halpin Music Co. 462-0661 2375 Homer Adams Pkwy, next to Golden Corral

\* Indicates items that need to be purchased at Halpin's Music Co.

## TAKING CARE OF YOUR NEW Woodwind INSTRUMENT

Careful observance of these instructions will make your instrument easier to play and will preserve its appearance. It will also cut down on repair bills. It is important that to make sure that your instrument is in proper adjustment.. If keys are bent; or pads are torn or worn out; or the instrument is out of adjustment, it will be difficult if not impossible for you to be successful on that instrument. Follow the instructions below.

- 1.Put your instrument together carefully. If you have to force it together, something is wrong. You may need to use cork grease to put some parts of the instrument together. Pressing certain keys will make it easier to put the instrument together.
- 2.When you have finished playing the instrument, take the reed off, dry it and place it in a reed case.
- 3.Do not leave the reed on the mouthpiece, it will warp. It should be taken off the mouthpiece and put in its reed case.
- 4.Clarinet and saxophone players should have at least four reeds in your case. Number these reeds 1 through 4 and rotate their use daily. As soon as one breaks or wears out, replace that reed as soon as possible.
- 5.Run a swab through each section of the instrument or use the cleaning rod on the flute. There are several types of swabs. A popular swab with students is called a pad saver. A student simply inserts this in their instrument, when they are finished playing. It soaks up the moisture which will ruin pads over a period of time.
- 6.Each student should have a soft, clean cloth to wipe off the outside of their instrument, This will go a long way towards preserving the appearance of their instrument.
- 7.The mouthpiece should be cleaned out weekly. You can use a special mouthpiece brush or pull a handkerchief through, on larger mouthpieces. You can wash most mouthpieces in warm water. Do not use hot water, it could warp the mouthpiece. **DO NOT WASH THE REST OF THE INSTRUMENT!** This will ruin the pads. It is expensive to re-pad your instrument.
- 8.Extra things should not be stored in the instrument case, unless a special compartment is provided. This can bend, scratch, or otherwise damage the instrument .
- 9.Q-tips can be used to clean between the moving parts on most instruments. Be careful not to bend springs and keys while doing this.
- 10.Periodically, you should have your instrument inspected and adjusted by a music store or someone else who knows what to look for and adjust the instrument.



## TAKING CARE OF YOUR New Brass INSTRUMENT

As with the woodwinds there are several daily maintenance procedures that will lengthen the life of and improve the playing of a brass instrument. All water key corks should work. All tuning slides should move freely. Care must be taken not to dent the instruments. Even small dents will affect the sound produced by the instrument.

### Daily Maintenance of Brass Instruments

1. Empty all water out of the horn when you finish playing each time. If necessary pull slides that might have water in them.
2. Take a soft, clean cloth and wipe off the outside of the instrument, especially where has been touched by your hands.
3. Run a mouthpiece brush through the mouthpiece and wipe off its rim.
4. Grease each slide and put back in its correct place.
5. Lightly oil the valve and place them back in their correct valve casing. Wipe off the outside of the instrument.
6. When you put your instrument up, do not store other stuff in your case, unless there is a compartment for other items.
7. Latch your case every time. You never know when someone else might pick it up.



# A Parent's Guide To Enhancing Your Child's Musical Experience

**Congratulations!** Your decision to provide your child with a quality musical experience is an investment in your child's future. In making it possible for your child to play in a musical group, you are providing the opportunity for self-expression, creativity, and achievement. Numerous studies indicate that parental attitude, support, and involvement are important factors in a child's ability to successfully learn to play and enjoy music. These guidelines are designed to assist you in giving your child the best support possible for his or her musical endeavors. Like any skill, interest counts far more than talent. With strong support from you, playing music will become a natural part of your child's life.

## **Benefits**

For your child, participation in music enhances:

- Problem Solving
- Teamwork
- Goal-Setting
- Self-Expression
- Physical Coordination
- Memory Skills
- Self-Confidence and Esteem
- Concentration
- Poise
- . . . and much, much more!

**For your family, a child's music study also offers opportunities for shared family experiences including:**

- Attending musical events
- Family music making
- Performing for and with family and friends
- Learning about the lives of composers and the cultural heritage of many civilizations
- A sense of accomplishment and pride for the entire family

## **How do I, as a parent, fit in?**

Always keep in mind that your support is an essential element in your child's success with music. Help by scheduling daily practice times. Achievement in music requires effort over a period of time. The time in school band is limited. New concepts learned at school need daily personal practice by your child at home in order for these new skills to be developed. You can help by:

- Providing a quiet place in which to practice
- Remain nearby during practice times as often as possible
- Schedule a consistent daily practice routine
- Praise your child's efforts and achievements

**To give your child the best support possible in order to succeed in band you should:**

- Remind your child to bring his/her instrument and music to school on band days
- Encourage your child to play for family and friends
- Offer compliments and encouragement daily
- Expose your child to a wide variety of music, including concerts and recitals
- Encourage your child to talk with you about classes
- Make sure your child's instrument is well maintained
- Listen to your child's practice, and acknowledge improvement
- Help your child build a personal music library
- Encourage your child to make a commitment to his/her music studies
- Get to know your child's teacher

**What to avoid:**

- Using practice as punishment
- Insisting your child play for others when he/she doesn't want to
- Ridiculing or making fun of mistakes or less than perfect playing
- Apologizing to others for your child's weak performance

**To maintain your child's interest:**

- Talk with your child if his/her interest begins to decline
- Discuss with the band teacher ways to maintain your child's enthusiasm for playing
- Increase your enthusiasm and involvement in your child's playing



## Expectations For Band Students

### Good behavior is expected at all times.

- \*Students are to be quiet in the hallways and are to enter and leave the classroom in an orderly manner.
- \*Students are not to leave their classroom early for band unless Ms. Cudney has authorized a change.
- \*No gum, food, or drinks in class.
- \*Talking will be kept to a minimum.
- \*Stay in your seat for the entire class; both feet flat on the floor, sitting up straight.
- \*Do not touch another person's instrument.
- \*Remain in class until you are dismissed.
- \*No playing the class piano.

**Class participation is expected 100% of the time.** Have everything you need for every single class: instrument, book, cloth, pencil, reeds, valve or slide oil, etc. Listen to instructions the first time they are given.

**Students are expected to come to band prepared.** This means **PRACTICE!** Your daily practice is band homework. Instruments and music are not to be left at school on non-band days.

**Students are responsible for music and materials issued to him/her.** Lewis and Clark Elementary School, Ms. Cudney, and the Alton Community Unit School District No. 11 are not responsible for instruments stolen from school due to students' negligence. Your instrument is only to be at school on lesson days, otherwise they stay **AT HOME!**

**Students are required to attend the December and May concerts.** In addition to being part of your child's grade, the band is a team and cannot perform effectively with members missing. Therefore, it is vitally important to the band that every member assumes his/her responsibility. Attendance is mandatory, except in cases of an emergency, illness, or prior arrangement with the band teacher. Unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for that concert, seriously jeopardizing a passing grade in band for that semester.

**Please sign and return the bottom portion of this page to the band director.**

---

We have read and agree to follow the guidelines outlined in the 5th Grade Band Handbook. We understand that our child, as a member of the Alton School District band program, is required to attend all concerts. Attendance is mandatory, except in cases of an emergency, illness, or prior arrangement with the band teacher. Unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for that concert, seriously jeopardizing a passing grade in band for that semester.

---

(Student's signature)

---

Date

---

(Parent's signature)

---

Date

## TAKING CARE OF YOUR New Percussion INSTRUMENT

1. Percussion equipment is very delicate. You should always be VERY careful with your Instrument. There is no reason for a drumhead to be dented.
2. Percussion instruments should never be stored near a heater or air conditioner. They are very sensitive to the heat, cold, and humidity.
3. Always wash your hands before you practice at home.
4. **NEVER** use furniture polish on your instrument you can buy a special kind of polish made for your instrument at any local music store.
5. Do not set the bottom of the snare on sharp objects. It is easy to puncture
6. Always put your instrument away in its case when you are not practicing.
7. Periodically take a damp cloth and wipe off the outside, as well as, the head of the drum.
8. **Never** try to do any repair work to your instrument. If anything happens, take the Instrument back to the shop.

