

Dear Parents,

August 10, 2017

I hope you made lot of cherished memories with your family over the summer! ☺ I am looking forward to another year of introducing band instruments to our 4th / 5<sup>th</sup> graders! ☺ The children do not need any prior experience on a band instrument in order to be in band. The instruments that will be offered are flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone, tuba, and percussion. These instruments may be rented at a music store. I highly recommend Music and Arts which is located in the Walmart shopping center on San Jose Blvd. Please do NOT buy an instrument from places like Walmart or Sears because they are impossible to repair if they break!!!

I am going to give the students who are in band, the “Selmer Music Guidance Survey,” on Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. The survey gives a good indication about which instrument is best suited for each student. I will also take into consideration each child’s 3 choices of instruments, height, hand size, arm length, teeth structure, and most of all love of a certain instrument! ☺ The survey is composed of four areas: Pitch Recognition, Chord, Melody, and Rhythm Memory. In addition to the survey, I will also spend 2 days having the children try-out the 3 instruments they have listed as choices. This evaluation along with the other methods listed above, will be a great indicator of which instrument each child will be best suited for. **Please know that a balanced instrumentation is necessary for a full band experience.** For example, for fifty wind instruments, a maximum of three percussionists would make a balanced sound. I am going to have a **“Band Night” on Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 - 8:00 P.M. in the cafeteria in which there will be representatives from Music and Arts to discuss the rental of instruments and set-up rental agreements with you. It will save you a trip to the store, and a long wait in line!!! I will also go over the band program briefly with you as well.** There is more information concerning “Band Night” later in the handbook. After reading through the remainder of the handbook, please complete the on-line form titled: “Beginning Band Information Form” on my website: <http://teachers.stjohns.k12.fl.us/isabelle-k> by **Friday, August 25<sup>th</sup>.**

Please have your son/daughter return the first “Fair Share” payment of \$20.00 to me by, **Friday, August 25<sup>th</sup>.** If paying by check, please address it to **JCE.**

Thank You! Musically,

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Mrs. Kathe Isabelle – Band Director

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Mrs. Jeanette Murphy- Principal

## **My Philosophy of Teaching Band**

Playing an instrument develops a child's self-confidence, reading skills, aural skills, and coordination. When a child creates his/her first sounds on an instrument, followed by the first few songs, the child feels that he/she has accomplished something, and feels good about it. Some children adapt quickly to an instrument, while others develop a little slower, but all children should be able to look back and say playing an instrument was a fun learning experience.

Reading skills are developed when a child plays an instrument. Music is read the same exact way in which words on a page are read, except that music is written in a different way.

Aural skills are also developed when one learns how to play an instrument. A person learns how each pitch needs to sound so that when he/she reads a piece of music, he will recognize when wrong notes are played.

When a person plays an instrument, his/her hands and fingers move in time to the music, which helps in the development of a child's coordination. I hope to create a fun learning environment so that with your support your child will find band to be a rewarding experience!

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Mrs.K.Isabelle

“Music is the universal language of mankind...”

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

### Rehearsal Schedule

**\*\*\*All rehearsals will begin at 7:30 A.M. and end at 8:15 A.M. Monday through Thursday.**

**Transportation will need to be provided by the parents, and the children will need to be dropped off at the parent drop-off line.**

**Rehearsals will be held in the mini Jaguar Den, and I will have the outside door unlocked each morning for the children to enter. PLEASE be sure your child arrives on time, allowing time to get his/her chair/stand set-up, put the instrument together, and possibly put a reed on!**

**\*\*\*I would allow an extra 5 to 10 minutes each morning for your child to be prepared to play in his/her seat at 7:30. Arriving at 7:20 – 7:25 is strongly recommended. I only see the children twice a week, and I will need all the time I can with them for beautiful sounds to occur! ☺**

**\*\*\*I will need ALL the students to come on the following mornings for just the first week so I can introduce the instruments, take the Selmer Music Guidance Survey, and try-out their 3 choices of instruments. ☺**

**\*\*\*Mon., Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>, Tues., Sept.12<sup>th</sup>, Wed., Sept.13<sup>th</sup>**

**\*\*\*The rehearsal schedule will be as follows every week starting on Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup>.**

**Mondays = Percussion**

**Tuesdays = Woodwinds**

**Wednesdays = Brass**

**Thursdays = Full Band ☺**

**\*\*\*When there is a Holiday or Planning / In-service Day on a sectional or full band day, I will move or combine a rehearsal if possible. I will communicate with you, and the students in advance as well.**

**\*\*\*Beginning the second semester, Tues., January 9<sup>th</sup>, I will combine the Beginning Band with the Advanced Band. Rehearsals will be Full Band only, and take place on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 7:30 – 8:15 A.M.**

## **Fair Share**

**“Fair Share” is an account that covers the expenses of the band that are listed for items such as below.**

- 1) Band shirt silkscreened T-Shirt that is part of the students’ uniform. – I will be ordering this.**
- 2) Band music**
- 3) Music stands**
- 4) Repair Kit**
- 5) Purchasing sound equipment as needed**

**“Fair Share” is \$60.00, and I have divided it into three payments.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Payment of \$20.00 – Friday, August 25<sup>th</sup>**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Payment of \$20.00 – Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup>**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Payment of \$20.00 – Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>**

**\*\*\*Families that have more than one child participating in band, “buy one, get one half off” will apply! ☺ If your son/daughter is also going to participate in chorus, “Fair Share” for chorus is FREE, (should not be paid) only for band.**

**\*\*\*If there is a financial hardship, please let me know. No child should be left out for financial reasons.**

# **Materials Needed for Band Each Day**

**Instrument ☺**

**Music**

**Folder**

**Pencil ☺**

**Two GOOD reeds (clarinets / alto saxophones / tenor saxophones)**

**Hand Towel ( Brass players only)**

**Cleaning supplies YES! ☺**

**Great, Positive Attitude, with a BIG Smile! ☺**

## **Uniform**

**1) Silkscreened T-Shirt that I will be ordering from O'Meara's Advertising Specialties so you do NOT need to shop for one. My goal is to have all the students look the same, and alleviate you from having to shop! In addition to wearing this shirt for ALL the performances, the children may also wear this shirt to school on "School Spirit Day Friday's."**

**2) Solid navy (only) blue slacks (girls and boys)  
Stores sell out of these fast, so I would try to buy these as soon as possible!**

**\*\*\*Jeans are not permitted for any of the performances.**

**\*\*\*The slacks may be found at stores such as: Bealls, Walmart, Target, Sears, Belk, Dillard's, Marshalls, TJ Maxx, Old Navy, JCPenney's Back to School Catalog.**

**3) Black shoes - girls and boys (NO sneakers/tennis shoes)**

**4) Navy (only) ankle socks for the girls**

**5) Navy (only) ankle or crew socks for the boys**

## Rules

**\*\*\* Students who want to be a Safety Patrol AND participate in band, may do so, but may ONLY participate in Safety Patrol in the afternoon, due to band rehearsals occurring in the morning.**

- 1) Attend all rehearsals.

**Consequences:** Students who have more than 3 unexcused absences will be dismissed from band. I will notify the student's parent(s) after the second unexcused absence.

**Band does NOT interfere with Safety Patrol duties.** Mrs. Isaaco works with students who are in band. PLEASE let her know ahead of time if you are participating in band.

**Band does NOT interfere with the "Morning Show".**

Students may still be a part of the cast, and still leave band rehearsal at the normal 8:15 time.

**\*\*\*ALL students are expected to complete their homework at home the night before, and NOT miss a band rehearsal in order to complete it. Doing so counts as an unexcused absence. Completing classwork for another teacher BEFORE 8:15 also counts as an unexcused absence.**

- 2) Attend all performances.

**Consequence:** Students who miss one performance, and I have not received a note from a parent or guardian will be dismissed from band pending a discussion with the student's parent(s).

- 3) Wear the band uniform to all performances.

**Consequences: First Time:** Students who do not wear their band uniform will be asked to sit out of that performance, and their parent(s) will be notified.

**Second Time:** Students who do not wear their band uniform to more than one performance, will be dismissed from band.

- 4) Speak and act in a respectful manner.

**Consequences: First Time:** Warning

**Second Time:** Time Out – Notify parent(s) by letter that will need to be returned to Mrs. Isabelle the next day.

**Third Time:** Dismissal from band.

- 5) Have a "C" average in academics at the time of each performance.

Students, who this may affect, will not be allowed to perform due to School Board policy.

- 6) Keep all gum for lunch and recess.

## Performances

**\*\*\* These performances, dates, and times are TENTATIVE. I will send out an e-mail, and letter at least two weeks prior to each performance.**

**Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>: Holiday Concerts in JCE's Cafeteria**

**9:30 A.M. for students / faculty/staff**

**7:00 P.M. for family / friends**

**Friday Evening in February: "Ice Skating Party" (Jacksonville Ice)**

**Date / Time - TBA**

**Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>: JCE's Family Fun Day! ☺ Time – TBA**

**March or April: Spring Concerts - Day - TBA**

**9:30 A.M. for students/faculty/staff**

**7:00 P.M. for family and friends**

**\*\*\*There may be other performances throughout the year as the children progress in their musical ability. ☺ I will send home a letter/permission slip at least two weeks in advance of each performance. All of the students will be required to make-up all school work that is missed due to a performance.**



## **Band Contract**

**Student Commitment:** I have read the 2017 - 2018 Julington Creek Elementary School Band Handbook information. By signing this form, I agree to the following guidelines:

- 1) I am making a one year commitment. I will not “drop out” before the end of the school year.
- 2) I will arrive on time for rehearsals and performances.
- 3) I will listen for directions and follow the conductor.
- 4) I will attend all rehearsals and performances unless excused for illness.
- 5) I will wear the required performance uniform as required for the performances.
- 6) I will follow the rules as stated in the handbook.
- 7) I WILL ENJOY MYSELF! ☺

**Parent Commitment:** I have read the 2017-2018 Julington Creek Elementary School Band Handbook information. By signing this form, I agree to the following guidelines:

- 1) I understand this is a one year commitment.
- 2) I will have my child at rehearsals and performances on time.
- 3) I will check the band folder for letters, school newsletters, and e-mail for information regarding rehearsals and performances.
- 4) I will have my child attend all rehearsals and performances unless excused for illness. In the case of illness or emergency, I will provide written notification as soon as possible.
- 5) I will provide my child with the required performance uniform for the performances.
- 6) I will encourage my child to enjoy the rehearsals and the performances.
- 7) I will review and discuss the rules with my child.

I have gone through this handbook with my child and feel we both understand the commitment being made to the Julington Creek Elementary School Band. ☺

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**Student Signature**

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**Parent Signature**