

Elementary Band FAQ

Where does my child go for band class and when?

Students are to wait in Mason's cafeteria next to the band room door, where I greet them each morning. Kids are expected to remain seated and quiet while sitting in the cafeteria before class (or they may be asked to wait outside the building.) The days of the week your child attends class will depend on the instrument he/she will play. Class begins at 8:15, so plan to arrive by 8:05.

Transportation

Students may walk or parents can drop them off. If your child asks for one, I can give him/her a pass to ride the same bus that the middle school kids in your neighborhood take to school. Bus schedules are found on the district's web site and at Mason's main office. A shuttle bus will take the students back to their elementary before school starts. Please note that appropriate behavior before and during the bus ride back to the elementary school is a must, and students may lose the privilege of participating in the elementary band if they cannot exhibit reasonable bus behavior.

Student Drop-off Zone

The area is accessed from the west end of the building on 29th street. Drop kids off at the cafeteria doors, just past the 2nd speed bump. For the safety of our students, please do not use the staff parking lot (between the field and school building) to drop off your child.

Attendance and Absences

If your child will be absent from band, please leave a message for me at 571-7035 before class. That way, I know he/she is safe at home. Students should plan to attend band on all assigned days- even when they don't have their instrument. Frequent absences cause students to fall behind quickly, so try to maintain good attendance.

Where do we get an instrument?

Most parents rent instruments from music stores. Some borrow from a friend or relative, and a few purchase them outright. We recommend renting for several reasons: 1) Rental contracts may include insurance against damage and offer free repairs. 2) Rental instruments are well built, come in good playing condition, and are easy to repair. 3) Renting is the lowest risk investment for parents of first year students, and many contracts include a rent-to-own option.

If a monthly rental is cost-prohibitive, contact me to see whether your child qualifies for financial assistance and if an instrument is available through the district. Are you thinking of purchasing an instrument? If so, please talk to me first for some suggestions.

When do we need our instruments?

Plan to bring all materials to class starting the week of September 21. Call ahead to see if the store you plan to visit has the method book (mentioned below) in stock. Be sure to tell them what instrument you play.

What if my child eats breakfast at school?

You can eat breakfast at Mason. The lunch number you use at your elementary will work just fine here too. Breakfast is served at 7:45. Get here early enough to eat before band begins.

What do I need for band?

Materials should be purchased after your instrument is chosen and you are registered for class. All students will need an instrument in good working order, some accessories and cleaning supplies, the “Standard of Excellence, book 1” method by Bruce Pearson, and several sharpened pencils. A complete materials list will be available at our Music Night event, but is also available at our web site, www.mustangband.org. (Once there, click on “Notes” at the top, then on “Materials List” under the Additional Info menu to the right.)

Home Practice

Students must practice at home in order to successfully learn to play an instrument. 10 to 15 minutes a day is good for beginners just starting up. As your skills develop, the time should increase gradually to about 20 or 30 minutes daily.

Class Schedule

Orientation	
Thursday, Sept. 17	Orientation (8:15-8:45 a.m.) and Elementary Music Night (4-7 p.m.)
First Week Start-up Lessons	
Monday, Sept. 21	Flutes only
Tuesday, Sept 22	Clarinets only
Wednesday, Sept. 23	Trumpets only
Thursday, Sept. 24	Trombones only
Friday, Sept. 25	Percussion only
Regular Schedule beginning Monday, Sept. 28	
Mondays	Full Band
Tuesdays	Flute and Clarinet
Wednesdays	Trumpet and Trombone
Thursdays	Percussion
Fridays	Full Band