

# **Plainfield School District 202**



## **Beginning Band Handbook**

**2009-2010**

Welcome to the Plainfield Band program.

We are proud that the Plainfield Band Program has been recognized for excellence on the local, state and national levels. We hope that you find participation in the Plainfield Band Program to be a worthwhile and rewarding experience. We are pleased about your decision to be a part of such a fine program.

All 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are given the opportunity to be a part of the Plainfield District #202 Band Program and to learn how to play a musical instrument. This is an important decision for you and your child that can lead to a rewarding love of music that lasts a lifetime. Musical training enables students to express their own creativity and to experience pride, satisfaction, and a sense of accomplishment. Participation also promotes such non-musical benefits as mental discipline, cooperative learning, developing a sense of responsibility, and emotional growth.

Countless studies have proven that students involved with music perform better in their academic subjects in school. Playing a musical instrument can be a *life long journey*.

The most important factor involved in becoming a band member is genuine interest. **No previous musical skills are required!** There is a place for any student with a desire to succeed and a willingness to work!

Participation in band benefits the student in many ways including:

- ❖ Enhances problem solving skills
- ❖ Promotes teamwork
- ❖ Fosters goal setting skills
- ❖ Encourages self-expression
- ❖ Coordination
- ❖ Memory skills
- ❖ Self-confidence and esteem
- ❖ Concentration
- ❖ Poise

### **MUSIC IS SCIENCE**

It is exact, specific, and it demands exact acoustics. The printed sheet music is a chart, a graph that indicates frequencies, intensities, volume changes, melody, and harmony all at once and with exact control of time.

### **MUSIC IS MATHEMATICAL**

It is rhythmically based on the subdivision of time into fractions, which must be done instantaneously, not worked out on paper.

### **MUSIC IS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE**

Most of the terms are in Italian, German, or French; and the notation is certainly not English but a highly developed kind of shorthand that uses symbols to represent ideas. The semantics of music is the most complete and universal language.

### **MUSIC IS HISTORY**

Music usually reflects the environment and times of its creation, often even the country and/or racial feelings.

### **MUSIC IS PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

It requires fantastic coordination of fingers, hands, arms, lip, cheek and facial muscles, in addition to extraordinary control of the diaphragmatic, back, stomach and chest muscles, which respond instantly to the sound the ear hears and the mind interprets.

**MUSIC** is all of these things, but most of all, music is ART. It allows a human being to take all these dry, technically boring, but difficult techniques and uses them to create emotion. This is the one thing science cannot duplicate-feeling, emotion, call it what you will.

This handbook is designed to answer frequently asked questions that students and parents have. It also lets parents and students know what will be expected of instrumental music students during the course of the school year. These guidelines have been formulated to maintain an instrumental music program in which each member, the entire school, and the community may take pride.

We look forward to a great year of music and learning. Should there be any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's band director. We look forward to seeing you at our performances this year!

### **PLAINFIELD BAND STAFF**

Ms. Moulee Dutta; Plainfield Central High School 815-436-3200  
Mr. Dan Valkema; Plainfield Central High School 815-436-3200  
Mr. Jason LaVallee; Plainfield North High School 815-609-8506  
Mr. Steven Pyter; Plainfield North High School 815/609-8506 ext. 2883  
Mr. Jerrod Cook; Plainfield South High School 815-577-5702  
Mr. Chris Dortwegt; Plainfield South High School 815-439-5555  
Ms. Darcie Condon; Heritage Grove Middle School; 815-439-4810  
Mr. JJ Fleming; Indian Trail Middle School; 815-436-6128 ext. 240  
Mrs. Marybeth Miller; Timber Ridge Middle School; 815-439-3410  
Mr. Brent Rathgeb; Aux Sable Middle School; 815-577-4900  
Ms. Karen Befdore; Aux Sable Middle School; 815-577-4900  
Ms. Annette McCammon; Drauden Point 815-577-4921  
Ms. Jeanette Soebbing; Timber Ridge Middle School; 815-439-3410  
Mrs. Karlee Van Kley; Ira Jones Middle School 815-267-3627  
Mr. Thomas Ruzinok; Ira Jones Middle School; 815-267-3627  
Mrs. Valerie Page; Eagle Pointe, and Walker's Grove Elementary 815-439-2885  
Ms. Kristin Emerson; Creekside, Central, 815-436-8415  
Ms. Lindsey Rathgeb; Wesmere, and Ridge 815-439-3413  
Ms. Lynn Cihlar; Grand Prairie Elementary 815-436-7000  
Ms. Renee Cammisio; Lincoln Elementary, Elizabeth Eichelberger Elementary 815-577-4500  
Ms. Monica Lalka; Lakewood Falls Elementary 815-439-4560, 630-660-8862(cell)  
Mrs. Cheryl Schmuhl; Charles Reed Elementary 815-254-2160  
Ms. Jennifer Thompson; Liberty, Freedom 815-609-3037  
Ms. April Enos; Crystal Lawns, River View 815-439-4840  
Mr. Robert Page; Meadow View, Thomas Jefferson 815-577-2021  
Mr. Jeff Kleinmaier; John F. Kennedy 815-439-8024  
Ms. Susan King; John F. Kennedy Middle School 815-439-8024

### **REHEARSAL SCHEDULE**

All band members will participate in a large group rehearsal once each week at their respective schools. In addition, all students receive a small group "sectional" lesson at least once each week.

### **PRACTICE**

A student's success on any musical instrument is not only dependent upon positive participation in in-school instruction, but on daily individual practice. Students should practice 10-20 minutes daily to reinforce the good habits introduced during group instruction. Students will maintain a weekly practice record that will be monitored by his/her instructor.

### **PERFORMANCES**

Your child will have the opportunity to perform at least twice this year. Information will be sent home in advance of any performance in which your son/daughter will be involved.

### **PARENT RESPONSIBILITY**

Parents play a crucial role in helping their child succeed in the Band. Consistent practice is the absolute best way to improve. The following guidelines will help contribute to your child's success:

- Help your child establish good practice habits.
- Schedule a daily practice time.
- Provide a quiet area for daily practice.
- Show interest in your child's musical progress, being careful not to make fun of the strange sounds you may hear from time to time.
- Contact your child's instructor if you have questions or concerns.
- Encourage your child to keep trying (especially through the hard times).
- See that your child is present and on time for ALL rehearsals and performances.

- Attend their performances. (Performers need an audience!)
- Expose your child to a variety of musical experiences including concerts, recitals, and recordings.

### **WHAT YOU SHOULD NOT DO**

- Do not use practice as punishment.
- Do not insist that your child perform for others when they do not want to.
- Do not make fun of less than perfect playing.
- Do not have your child play an instrument (including reeds) that is of poor quality or poor working order.

### **IF YOUR CHILD LOSES INTEREST**

“Success is measured not by what we start, but rather what we complete.” Learning to play a musical instrument takes time and effort. If your child shows signs of losing interest, don’t panic. Encourage your son/daughter to not give up during the first year. The first four months are the toughest. We strongly encourage all band students to finish the entire first year of band.

- Discuss the situation with your child to determine why their interest is declining.
- Talk to your child’s band teacher to determine why his/her interest is declining.
- Encourage your child to stick with the lessons for an agreed period of time.
- Offer increased enthusiasm and support.

### **EVALUATION**

Students are graded based on their individual work evident in class performance unless specified otherwise. Progress reports will be sent home at the end of the second, third and fourth quarters. Letter grades are not assigned; rather, feedback is given in an effort to help the student improve. Please feel free to call your child’s teacher at any time during the year with concerns about progress or with any other questions.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Attendance is vital to any band program. If a child misses one band day, he or she has lost most if not all band instruction for the entire week. Poor attendance affects not only individuals, but each class member as well.

### **CLASSROOM RULES**

### **REWARDS**

### **CLASSROOM PROCEDURES**

Enter the room quietly and prepare for class. Assemble your instrument and get your music, pencil, and mind ready. At the end of class, clean your instrument carefully and put things away in an orderly fashion. Return directly to your class, whether they are at a special, at lunch, or in their room.

### **CARE OF INSTRUMENTS**

Do not have your child play an instrument (including reeds) that is of poor quality or in poor working order. Repair of an instrument becomes necessary from time to time. The band directors are capable of handling some minor repairs, however if the repair is beyond our expertise, we will recommend that the instrument be sent in for repair. Quinlan and Fabish, Music and Arts, and Ellman’s has provided each director with loaner instruments for those renting from these vendors which can be used by the students while his/her instrument is in the shop for repairs.

## **MATERIALS NEEDED**

All band members will need the following:

- Instrument (in good playing condition) with nametag on the case
- Pencils (at least 2, stored in instrument case)
- Accent on Achievement, Book 1 for his/her instrument (Percussionists need the COMBINED PERCUSSION book)
- Necessary supplies (reeds, oil, swabs etc. see list below)
- Music stand (for at-home practice)

## **The following is a list of recommended instrument brands and supplies needed for each instrument:**

### **FLUTE**

Recommended brands: Armstrong, Gemeinhardt, Yamaha, Artley

Cleaning rod (should be included)

Handkerchief

### **CLARINET**

Recommended brands: Accent, Buffet, Yamaha, Selmer,

Hite Premiere mouthpiece should be included with instrument rental

Box of reeds (Mitchell Lurie, Rico Royal strength 2 1/2)

Reed guard (holds 2 or 4 reeds)

Handkerchief swab

Cork grease

### **OBOE**

Recommended brands: Yamaha, Selmer

Silk oboe swab

3 natural cane, medium soft

Reed guard

Cork grease

### **SAXOPHONE**

Recommended brands: Yamaha, Selmer

Hite Premiere mouthpiece should be included with rental

Box of Rico Royal or Marca reeds (strength 2 1/2)

Cork grease

Handkerchief swab

### **TRUMPET**

Recommended brands: Selmer-Bach, Yamaha

7c or 5c Bach mouthpiece

Bottle of valve oil (Blue Juice, Al Cass)

Tuning slide grease

Optional accessories: Cleaning snake, Mouthpiece brush

### **FRENCH HORN**

Recommended brands: Conn, Holton, Yamaha single horns or Eastman double horn

Holton MC (medium cup) mouthpiece

Bottle of rotary valve oil

Tuning slide grease  
Optional accessories: Cleaning snake, Mouthpiece brush

### **TROMBONE**

Recommended brands: Selmer-Bach, Yamaha  
**Bach 6 ½ AL mouthpiece should be included with instrument rental**  
Small spray bottle  
Slide grease (Slide-O-Mix, Trombontine)  
Tuning slide grease  
Optional accessories: Cleaning snake, Mouthpiece brush

### **BARITONE**

Recommended brands: Yamaha, Selmer-Bach  
Bach 6 ½ AL mouthpiece should be included with instrument rental  
Bottle of valve oil (Blue Juice, Al Cass)  
Tuning slide grease  
Optional accessories: Cleaning snake, Mouthpiece brush

### **TUBA**

Recommended mouthpiece: Conn-Helberg  
Required supplies: Bottle of valve oil, Tuning slide grease  
Optional accessories: Mouthpiece brush

### **PERCUSSION**

Recommended brands: Yamaha, Pearl percussion kit (**practice pad & bell set with no letters on the keys**)  
1 pair of Vic Firth SD1 General drum sticks  
1 pair keyboard mallets Mile Balter model 4 birch

Parents are free to choose any instrument supplier they prefer. You have been previously provided with a band vendor list to assist you in this selection.

**We look forward to a great year of music and learning. Should there be any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's band director. We look forward to seeing you at our performances this year!**

## **WHY THE WORLD NEEDS BANDS**

Reprinted from an article written by John Philip Sousa - 1930

We are living in the greatest period in the history of mankind; but we are all living so fast that hardly one person in ten seems to realize our glorious advantages, to say nothing of enjoying them.

The band holds an entirely distinctive place in music. It affords a means of stimulation that cannot be acquired in any other way.

The smart band of today can boast the most ancient ancestry in music. All in all, it is the oldest combination of instruments that we use. Many of the instruments in the band today are lineal descendants, ancestors of such remote Asiatic origin that historians are at a loss to discover their beginnings.

Why does the world need bands? Why does the world need flowers, sunlight, religion, the laughter of children, moonrise in the mountains, great masterpieces of art? Why, indeed? Because the world has a soul and a spirit, which is hungry for beauty and inspiration.

NOTE: Although originally written in 1930, the message conveyed is still very true today.