

BMS Beginning Band Info, Fall 2023

Band Class Registration - While most band students are already registered for class, it is still possible to sign up for beginning band. Since this is a regularly scheduled class, it is important that any student who has not yet registered do so as soon as possible.

Instruments: If you ordered an instrument from Gerry's music, I have it already, or it will arrive soon. If you have a working instrument already at home, your child does not need to bring it in until I let them know we will be starting their instrument. Lessons will start the week of 9/11. If you have an instrument that may not be working, please send it in to school, and I will take a look at it. If you have not yet ordered an instrument, you can still order them from gerrysmusicshop.com. If you have already spoken with me about using a school instrument, I will provide the instrument when we start to play. If you're not sure about how to get an instrument, please contact me as soon as possible.

Lesson Books: Your child will need a lesson book for band. The book we use is Essential Elements for Band, book 1, published by Hal Leonard. If you rent an instrument, you can also use the rental form to order a book – you can also order a book online when using the online rental page. If you already have an instrument you can order books from musicarts.com or jwpepper.com, as well as many other web-based retailers.

Reeds for saxes and clarinets: The school has a few extra reeds for students who run out of reeds, however clarinet and sax students should have at least 2 good reeds at all times. I recommend ordering reeds in boxes of 10. There are many brands and strengths; I have found LaVoz and VanDoren to be reliable. For strength recommendations - 5th and 6th graders, I recommend a 2 for VanDoren, and Med. Soft for LaVoz. For 7th & 8th graders, 2 ½ for VanDoren and Med. for LaVoz.

Supplies and Repairs: Students needing to order supplies such as reeds, valve oil, and instrument cleaning/maintenance items can call Gerry's Music at 1-800-724-7402 to place your order by phone. You can also order supplies online, and in some cases you will get items more quickly that way, and avoid shipping costs. A representative from Gerry's Music will be coming to the school once a week to bring supplies and pick up/drop off instrument repairs. Please let me know if you have any repair needs as I can fix some minor problems. If I can't fix an instrument, it can be sent out for repairs to Gerry's. They will provide an estimate before completing any repairs.

Performances – 5th grade band students will perform at the Middle School Spring Concert, scheduled for April 25, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. This is the only after school performance for 5th grade band.

Instrument Maintenance/Care - Students will be shown how to properly maintain an instrument. After a certain amount of use, all instruments, particularly woodwinds, will need some adjustments and repair work performed by a professional repair technician. When properly maintained, repair and maintenance costs can be kept to a minimum. When not properly maintained, instrument repairs can quickly become costly, and repairs will be more frequent.

If you have any questions, the quickest way to reach me is via email – kelleher@brooklynschools.org

You can also leave me a voice mail at 860-774-9153 x275

I look forward to working with your children this year.

Jeff Kelleher

BMS Band Director