



Beginning Band at Pfeiffer Intermediate School



Dear Prospective Band Parent,

We are excited to invite you and your child to join the band program here at Perry Local Schools. We are committed as a staff to giving each of our students the best possible experience in band. Along with the main goal of building musical ability, your child will also be taught a high level of teamwork and self-discipline. Students in the Perry bands have traditionally excelled to high standards individually and as members of some of the best ensembles in the state. Studies have shown that students who study and practice music achieve at a higher academic level and are less likely to engage in negative behaviors. No prior musical experience is required to enroll in the band and students may participate in band and choir at the 6th grade level. The following information will guide you through the process of joining the band in Perry Local.

Enrollment

Students will be returning their interest form for band by May 5th, 2017. This will have them initially scheduled in band but this is not a permanent enrollment in band. After the fittings, your student will bring their fitting/enrollment home to you. Please fill out the information on this form and have your child return it to Mr. Sterling no later than Friday, September 8th, 2017. All students who return "yes" forms will be enrolled in band at Pfeiffer Intermediate School for the 2017-2018 school year.

Instrument Fittings

Instrument fittings will take place the week of August 28th during the school day. Instruments available are Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, and Percussion. We ask that each student have a first and second choice in mind when we start the fittings. Each staff member will use his or her expertise to identify which instrument would make a good fit for your child. Facial structure, finger dexterity, and coordination are all factors that can help determine the appropriate instrument for your child. Your student will receive a rating from 1-3 on an instrument. A 3 signifies a good match for you student, a 1 means it may not be the best fit. The goal of the fitting is to find the instrument that gives your child the best chance for success in band. After the instrument fittings are over, your student will bring home an enrollment form that has the results of his or her fitting session.

Obtaining an Instrument and Supplies ***PLEASE DO NOT RENT OR BUY AN INSTRUMENT BEFORE FITTINGS***

Once you and your child have made the decision on which instrument is best, you will need to obtain an instrument and supplies. We strongly suggest that you rent an instrument as opposed to buying one. Many local stores have a rent to own program in which the money you put into the rental goes toward the eventual purchase of the instrument. These programs will be covered in the parent meetings. In looking for an instrument for your child, quality should be the main concern. Many sub-par instruments are flooding the market through big merchandising outlets. Many of these instruments are made of cheap materials that are weak and break easily and in many cases cannot or will not be repaired due to repairs not holding. This can be extremely frustrating for your child as he or she is not able to have success due to the poor quality of the instrument. Local music stores are the best options. Pellegrino Music and MRS (Musicians Repair Service) are good options for renting or purchasing used instruments and representatives from both of these stores will be at our parent meetings. You may obtain an instrument from any source that you wish but, as with any purchase, buyer beware. Listed below are some reliable brands by instrument, but it is by no means a comprehensive list. If you have questions about a brand feel free to contact me.

Flute:

Armstrong
Emerson
Gemeinhardt
Pearl
Yamaha

Clarinet:

Buffet
LeBlanc
Selmer
Vito
Yamaha

Alto Sax:

Conn-Selmer
Selmer
Selmer-Paris
Yamaha

Trumpet:

Bach
Blessing
Conn
Getzen
King
Yamaha

Trombone:

Bach
Blessing
Getzen
Holton
King
Yamaha

Percussion Kits:

Ludwig
Pearl
Yamaha
Vic Firth

Instruments & Supplies

- Good Quality Instrument (Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Percussion Kit)
- Instrument Cleaning and Care Kit
- Reeds - La Voz Medium Soft (Clarinet and Saxophone only)
- Method Book (Standard of Excellence Book #1 - Red)
- Folding Music Stand for at home practice.

Informational Parent Meetings

We have two informational parent meeting scheduled at Pfeiffer Intermediate School. The first meeting is on Thursday, August 31st, 2017 from 7:00 - 8:00 PM and the second is on Tuesday, September 5th, 2017 from 7:00 - 8:00 PM. Both meetings will be held in the cafeteria. This is a great opportunity to ask questions, find out more about the band and hear about our private lesson program. There will also be representatives from local music stores who you can rent from at the meeting. If you are unable to attend either meeting, feel free to contact me for the information.

BEGINNING BAND CHECKLIST AND DATES

- Beginning Band & Choir Assembly / Interest Form Sent Home**
(Thursday, April 27th, 2017)
- Band Recruitment Assembly**
(Friday, August 25th, 2017)
- Instrument Fittings**
(Week of August 28th, 2017)
- Informational Parent Meetings**
(Thursday, August 31st or Tuesday, September 5th 7:00 - 8:00 PM / Pfeiffer Cafeteria)
- Obtain Instrument, Method Book, and Supplies**
- Enrollment/Fitting Form Due to Mr. Sterling or AA teacher**
(Friday, September 8th, 2017)
- First Day of Band / Student need Instrument, Method Book, and Supplies**
(Monday, September 11th, 2017)

Contact

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at the following...

Joe Sterling
EMail: joe.sterling@perrylocal.org
Phone: 330-478-6163
Website: perryband.com (Pfeiffer/Edison Bands Tab)

I look forward to working with your students. I am excited for your students as they begin learning a band instrument and the enjoyment they will experience in band for years to come.