

**Welcome to the
Warren Central BEGINNER BAND PROGRAM!**

Parents:

This information packet answers the most commonly asked questions about beginning band and about obtaining an instrument for your child. Please look over these materials and attend our BEGINNER BAND MEETING on Tuesday, May 19 at the Warren Central High School Band Hall. You can come at either 4:30 PM or 6:00 PM—there is no need to come to both.

In this meeting, we will give you a better understanding of how get an instrument and what to expect with band. This meeting is required, so please make sure you can be there at one of the times above.

We are EXTREMELY excited about the potential in your child. We want to help you get started smoothly so you and your child can enjoy many years of a great band experience!

Sincerely,

The Warren Central Band Directors

The Warren Central Junior High Beginning Band Program Overview

Here are the answers to the most frequently asked questions about beginning band.

1. When does band meet?

Each beginning band class will meet during the school day as a regularly scheduled class during the activity period.

2. How are the classes arranged or divided?

Beginning band instruction is set up in "homogeneous" classes (Similar instrument groups).

- Beginning Woodwind (flute, clarinet, alto-saxophone, and oboe)
- Beginning Brass/percussion (trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, tuba, and bells [keyboard percussion])

3. Will there be any after school rehearsals?

No. Your child simply needs to practice on their own. See # 6.

4. Will the Beginner band perform any concerts?

Yes, the beginner band will perform a Christmas concert and a spring concert. These are required performances.

In addition to these concerts, the students will be required to perform at band night (at a high school football game) in the fall.

5. Does band conflict with other classes and/or sports?

NO. Band simply meets during the activity period, and is your child's activity for the year. Band DOES NOT conflict with other classes or sports in Junior High.

6. Are there homework assignments for band?

The only homework assignment band students have is an important one: to practice their instrument at home. For normal progress, all beginning band students need to practice at home for 20 minutes, five days a week. We strongly encourage equally distributed practice time throughout each week in order to promote musical success.

7. Can a student wait and enroll in band in the 7th grade?

No. Beginning Band is ONLY offered in 6th grade. A student cannot enroll in 7th grade band without having first been in the 6th grade beginning band. Each year of band builds upon the knowledge and skills learned in the previous year. Unfortunately, we have to turn away junior high students each year because they did not enroll in the beginning band when they had the opportunity in 6th grade. Band only starts in the 6th grade.

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8. How do I get an instrument for my child?

Instrument night is **Tuesday, May 19**. Mississippi Music Company is available at this meeting to discuss obtaining an instrument. Please bring a down payment of \$60.00 to reserve your instrument. If your child is selected for baritone, French Horn, oboe or saxophone, bring \$80.00. The company will help arrange the purchase of your child's instrument that evening. Band is affordable to many people because of the flexible rental/purchase plans available. You are not required to close a deal with the representative that night. It is important, however, that you make arrangements as soon as possible for your child's instrument and maintenance supplies. This will ensure that your child will have an instrument when school starts in August. Feel free to take an instrument contract home from the meeting to discuss it. If you choose to complete a contract on May 19th, you can rest assured that an instrument has been ordered and will arrive for your child when it is needed. However, you will not receive it that night or keep it over the summer. This prevents anxious students from attempting to assemble their instrument before they have been taught how to, which often results in damage to the instrument.

9. Are there school instruments available for loan?

Some of the very large and very expensive instruments (tuba) are owned by the school and may be issued to students selected by the director for that instrument. In addition to the band fee, there is a once-a-year fee of \$25.00 to use a school-owned instrument. This fee helps to cover maintenance and repairs on the instrument.

10. Are there other fees associated with band besides the purchase of an instrument?

Warren Central elementary schools do not provide band with a budget to spend. As a result, it is necessary to charge a band fee for each child in the program. The band fee is collected by the directors and put into the band activity account. The band fee pays for music, method books, band t-shirts, instrument accessories, music binders, music stands, and many other items necessary to properly outfit a band program. If your child is a percussionist, there are additional costs due to an extensive collection of school-owned percussion that your child will play.

DRUMS?????

Percussion vs. Drums

Warren Central Junior High has a percussion class. If your child is interested in "playing drums" or learning drum set, this may not be exactly what you are looking for. Percussion includes: snare drum, keyboard percussion (i.e. bells and xylophone), and auxiliary percussion (i.e. cymbals, bass drum, triangle, etc.) Every percussionist will be expected to learn all of these instruments competently. All accessories listed in this packet are REQUIRED.

Drum set at home?

Having a drum set at home does not guarantee you a spot in the percussion class. "Playing drums since you were little" does not guarantee a spot in percussion class.

What was the audition procedure for percussion?

Each student has performed a series of rhythm and coordination tests. This included foot/hand coordination, hand/finger dexterity, rhythmic imitation, timing skills, and a natural sense of pulse. It has been our experience that students who possessed these necessary traits were successful in the class. Students who had a difficult time demonstrating these skills struggled in the class; even those worked "really hard" and "really wanted it". We want your child to be successful in band and enjoy their band experience; we do our best to place students where their physical attributes lend them to be.

Piano/Drum experience?

Having had piano lessons will definitely help you in being selected for the percussion class. Having had drum lessons will probably help you in the audition process, but neither piano or drum lessons will guarantee you a spot in the percussion class.

Percussion Ratio:

We cannot have a band composed of just drummers. We allow a maximum of 10% of the overall band to be placed on percussion. There are only so many percussion parts on any given piece of music. If we don't limit the percussion class, there would be many students who did not get to perform in all the songs and would miss out on a great band experience

Obtaining An Instrument

1. Where do I get an instrument?

We recommend **Mississippi Music Company, Inc. 1001 Sara Lane, Flowood, Ms (601) 922-1200.** For your convenience, representatives from Mississippi Music will be here to provide you with information for securing an instrument and maintenance kit.

In addition to this, Mississippi Music:

- A. Comes to the school regularly to service their customers.
- B. Offers maintenance service and repairs
- C. Picks up instruments needing repair from the school and takes the instrument to the repair shop. They also return the instrument to the school once payment is arranged.
- D. Has its own professionally staffed, completely equipped repair shop
- E. Has NO agreement of any type with the school or any band director other than the understanding that they will come to the school regularly to provide efficient service to YOU, their customer.
- F. Makes the instrument available to you on a rental-purchase agreement.

2. What are my purchasing options?

There are two options:

- A. The first option is a rental-purchase plan. Since most parents are unsure whether the student is committed to playing a musical instrument, they are reluctant to purchase one. The rental agreement allows you to rent an instrument with monthly fees applying toward a purchase. If you are hesitant to make a commitment to the purchase of an instrument at this time, we highly recommend that you lease-purchase.
- B. The second option is a cash purchase. Some parents are already confident of their child's success and would prefer to pay in full. For those who desire to purchase an instrument, it is less expensive in the long term to pay in full because there are no finance charges.

3. Why should I enter into a lease-purchase agreement?

- A. The plan is designed to give your child the opportunity to begin in band with only a small initial investment.
- B. Your child can have the advantages of a brand new instrument. Students experience pride of ownership and the opportunity to be the best player he/she can be by having the best available instrument for their age level.

- C. The students have the instrument and mouthpiece recommended by the band director.
- D. The instrument can be returned to the music company at any time without further financial obligation.
- E. The instrument is covered by a maintenance agreement. Depending on the "Carefulness" of the student, instruments will need periodic maintenance and repair. The maintenance agreement would cover the full cost of these trips to the repair shop.

4. May I purchase an instrument from another music store?

Purchasing an instrument and a maintenance kit from one of these is not recommended for the following reasons (but you are free to do so if you choose):

- A. There are other brands of instruments available for less money; however, they may be of inferior quality of workmanship and materials. An inferior instrument very often ensures that your child will NOT be successful in band. Always consult one of the band directors before purchasing an instrument that is not on the recommended list of instruments. Purchasing a quality instrument is vital to the success of your child in band.
- B. The store you deal with may not have a reputable repair shop and may not be able to service the instrument competently or in a timely manner. Furthermore, this store will not be able to pick up and deliver back to the school an instrument that needs repair.
- C. The specific mouthpieces and maintenance kits on the Warren Central recommended list might not be available at another music store. An unsatisfactory mouthpiece or incomplete maintenance kit can be detrimental to your child's progress. Therefore, the most convenient and economical way to get an instrument is through the plan offered through Mississippi Music.

5. May I purchase a used instrument?

Yes!!!! However, care must be taken not to purchase an instrument whose condition would be a stumbling block to your child. It is important to consult one of the band directors concerning the condition of a used instrument before you buy it. You are encouraged to check with Mississippi Music concerning the availability of good used instruments. MS Music Co. offers used instruments that have been refurbished through their repair shop and will be guaranteed to be in good playing condition and sanitary.

If you decide to look for a used instrument, please purchase ONLY the brand and model on our recommended list of instruments along with the recommended mouthpiece and maintenance kit for that instrument.

6. May I purchase an instrument over the internet or a catalog?

This is not recommended. It is difficult to ensure you have purchased the brand and model of instrument on our recommended list of instruments, along with the recommended mouthpiece and maintenance kit for that instrument. Many times, purchasing an instrument online or from a catalog will be less expensive; however, please be aware that it is difficult to know the dependability of internet and

catalog dealers. We have had several instances where these companies misrepresented themselves, and the child suffered. While these companies may offer great prices—beware of the quality of the product and what, if any, service plan they offer.

5. What happens when school starts?

When school starts, your child will go to their scheduled band period each day. The first two weeks or so will be spent learning basics of reading music and rhythm. We will also be collecting fees for band supplies. Once we feel the students are ready, we will begin using their instruments daily. This will be no earlier than the third week of school. Recommended list of beginner Instruments is on the next page—please purchase these or equivalent instruments. Remember, if you do not buy from a full-service music store, please check with the band directors before purchasing.

We need each and every future band parent to attend instrument night on Tuesday, MAY 19. If you ABSOLUTELY cannot attend, please contact one of the directors listed on this packet so that you may get the necessary information. Please understand that missing the meeting will be a great disadvantage to your child unless you are able to get all the information another time.

If you are unable to reserve your child's instrument at instrument night, please visit Mississippi Music Company at their Flowood location early this summer (or other reputable Music dealer). Make sure you tell them your child attends a Warren Central school, and they will be able to help you purchase the correct materials.

We will have another meeting shortly after school starts for those who still have not purchased an instrument, but please keep in mind that all used instruments normally get purchased early in the summer. Purchase early and save!!

Be aware: If you purchase your instrument from Mississippi Music, all of the accessories (see next page) will be included with your purchase. **When school starts, there will be a fee of \$65 to cover band book, Tshirt, and other necessary materials. If you don't have all the instrument accessories at that time, your fees will be higher to cover the purchase of those accessories.** You will be notified of this payment in detail after school starts in August.

MATERIALS

All of the equipment listed below is required for participation in Warren Central Band. Mississippi Music will include all of the required equipment listed below with a lease-purchase. These items are required regardless of where instrument is purchased.

Flute: Yamaha YFL200AD instrument *with silk swab and cleaning rod*

Oboe: Oboe Accent OB590G instrument with *silk swab and reed case with 3 reeds.*

Clarinets: Vito 7214WC instrument. VanDoren "5RV Lyre Profile 88" mouthpiece and the Robert Vinson Ligature, mouthpiece patch, *silk swab, reed guard, Van Doren #3 reeds (box of 10).*

Alto Saxophone: Yamaha YAS200AD instrument Rovner Ligature and Selmer C* mouthpiece

Trumpet (cornet) Yamaha YCR2310 instrument with care kit

Trombone: Yamaha YSL200AD instrument with care kit and 6-1/2 AL Blessing or Bach Mouthpiece.

Baritone: Eastman EEP421 instrument with care kit and 6-1/2 AL Blessing or Bach Mouthpiece.

Tubas: Blessing or Back 18 mouthpiece and care kit

Percussion: MUST HAVE SNARE AND BELLS! Yamaha SCK-275R kit with snare drum and bells.

Innovative Percussion Intermediate Mallet Pack (F P2), Offworld Invader V3 percussion Practice Pad, I Pair of Innovative Percussion (FSI) Snare Drum Sticks, I Kraft Master Key Pitch Pipe (P—F)

NOTE: Bells, stand, and mallets will be used the first year, but the kit is purchased together and we will store the other equipment and issue it as new concepts are introduced in 7th grade.

This is a large amount of information! Thank-you for reading it and preparing!! You will be glad you did. We look forward to having you and your child in the Warren Central Band Family!!!

Please contact a band director if you have any questions or an unavoidable conflict with the band meeting on May 19.

Flute, clarinet, oboe, saxophone players:

Melynn Arendale 601-529-0088

Jace McMullin 601-618-0424

Trumpet, trombone, baritone, tuba:

Andrew Bonner 662-212-3662

Jessica Bonner 601-938-5544

Percussion (bells):

Alan Arendale 601-529-0088

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