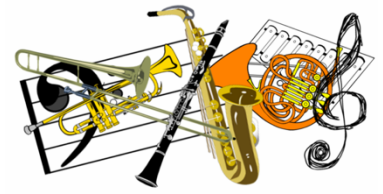




Helena Middle School Band 2020-21



August 24, 2020

Hello 7th and 8th Grade Band Families,

Welcome back to the Band Program at Helena Middle School! I am looking forward to embarking on an exciting and unusual musical journey together this year. Frankly, we are entering a new frontier in the world of education, one that comes with many uncertainties and unknowns. This is true for the band classroom as well, but know that I will be giving your students 100% of my effort to give them the best possible music education whether it is in class or online. I am happy to say that we will be playing our instruments this year, but it will look and feel different than our traditional setting. Please go over the information below and contact me with any questions or concerns.

All students who are signed up for band will need an instrument of the 2020-21 school year. With COVID-19, this year in band is going to look and be different, but my goal is to have every student playing their instruments whether we are in class or through remote learning. We have a health plan developed for each music room that operates under the guidelines of social distancing, as well as, county health department guidelines. I will share this plan with you once we receive our final approval from the district administrators and county health officials. Also, please know that this plan is constantly changing and evolving as our world deals with the current pandemic, and that we are doing our best to provide a safe environment for our students.

Instruments are not provided by the school (except for baritone and tuba) and must be provided by families. Instruments are available to rent or purchase from your local music store – Piccolo's Music on 11th Ave. All required equipment will be available at this location. The larger instruments – baritone and tuba – are available for rent from the school. I have a limited number of school instruments that are available for rent on a need basis. Please call me with questions or concerns.

All students will be required to have their own copy (respective to their instrument) of the beginning band method book – **Essential Elements Book 2**, which is available at Piccolo's Music. 8th grade students have already purchased this book last year and do not need to buy another one. I also recommend that you invest in a folding music stand for home, so proper posture and hand position can be used when practicing.

****Please be sure that your name (first and last) is clearly marked on the outside of your instrument case and on the front cover of your book.**

Home practice is as important to band students as is class time at school for it is during daily practice that muscle development, music reading skills and coordination occur which in turn leads to improved tone and technique. I recommend a minimum of 20 minutes daily for adequate development and to prepare assignments. This is band "Homework"!!

I am happy to try to answer any questions am available at 324-1026. Please leave a message and I will return your call promptly.

Sincerely,

Tyson Reiter
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Helena Middle School
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324-1026