2017 - 2018

District 140 Bands

HELP!

MY KID JOINED THE SCHOOL BAND, BUT I ONLY PLAY THE RADIO.

BEGINNING BAND INFORMATION

WEEKLY SMALL GROUP IN-SCHOOL LESSONS

Band meets at the elementary schools once each week for thirty minutes during the school day. Band members are placed in small groups of like instruments. The student's band time is on a rotating schedule as to not miss the same class each week. Students will need their instrument, book, and a pencil at every lesson.

Tuesdays - Fernway
Wednesdays - Bannes & Millennium
Thursdays - McAuliffe
Friday - Keller

AFTER SCHOOL REHEARSALS

Starting the week of October 23, 2017, band members will also meet as a full band after school. Band members will attend after school band rehearsal on either Mondays at Prairie View or Tuesdays at Grissom in the band room. Rehearsals begin promptly at 4:00pm and last until 5:00pm. Parents are responsible for providing transportation to and from rehearsals. Carpooling is encouraged.

(Please do not block the bus lanes when dropping off your student.)

PERFORMANCES

All District 140 Beginning Band members will combine for two concerts this school year. The dates are Wednesday, January 24, 2018 and Wednesday, April 18, 2018. In addition, students will present a concert in their respective schools in May.

Band members wear the following concert attire:

Boys: white, button-down shirt, black dress pants, black socks, black dress shoes (tie is optional)

Girls: white blouse or dress shirt, black dress pants (or a black dress), black socks/nylons, black dress shoes

DAILY AT HOME PRACTICE

To attain musical success, we request twenty to thirty minutes of daily practice. Each week students will receive instruction on how and what to practice for the following lesson. Remember to "count, clap, sing, finger, play"!!!

DO NOT FEAR, HELP IS HERE!

Many parents think that if they know little or nothing about music, they cannot help their child who is learning a new instrument. This is not true. Your involvement in your child's music education is key to his or her success.

Here are a few things you CAN do, even if your greatest talent is playing the radio.

1. LISTEN

While this may seem hard at first, I promise it will get easier. It is important that the students practice a recommended 20 minutes a day to build confidence, coordination, and consistency. Pretty soon, you'll start to hear music!

2. WATCH

You can check your child's posture while they are practicing. Check to see that their back is straight and they are not hunched over at the shoulders. They will have a better airstream when playing. There are diagrams in your child's band book on pages 2, 3, and 4 showing proper posture and playing position.

3. ENCOURAGE

A kind word will go a long way. If your child is improving, you will HEAR the results!

4. CHANGING THE STATION

Each week, your child receives a weekly assignment in the front of their band book. The assignment contains a variety of exercises and songs from class. If you hearing the same thing over and over, ask him or her what they are working on in class. Chances are, your student is playing only what they have mastered, instead of working on things that could use more attention.

5. BRUSH OFF THE TARNISH

After the newness of the instrument wears off, sometimes it takes a little motivation to keep at it. Learning an instrument is not an "instant gratification" activity such as playing a video game. Keep them practicing and keep them involved. They may not thank you for it now, but they will later on.

- Go to **www.myeelibrary.com** for the FREE Essential Elements practice tracks to use with the exercises in the book and video resources. You will need the Student Activation Code printed in the first page of your Essential Elements book.

District 140 Bands

Please regularly check the BAND WEBSITE on our district page at www.ksd140.org/band **for additional news updates, events, practice tips, and music resources.**

Band Instructors

Mr. Forlenza -- rforlenza@ksd140.org
Mr. Hodges -- mhodges@ksd140.org
Mr. Szczasny -- mszczasny@ksd140.org

Grissom Band Room
Mr. Hodges
(708) 532-8500

Prairie View Band Room
Mr. Forlenza
Mr. Szczasny
(708) 342-9286