

O'Fallon District 90 Bands 5th Grade Band Newsletter

Week 8, October 30th-November 3rd

Supplies/Repairs



Music & Arts is our primary partner for repairs and supplies. If you order anything, designate "deliver to school" and it will be brought straight to the band room. www.musicarts.com

Phone: (314) 739-4265

Private Lessons

Private Lessons are the best thing you can do for your child's Music Education. We have a lot of great teachers and mentors who are eager to work with Jr. High Students. Email me at mdonahue@of90.net and I can help put you in touch with a great teacher.

Students need to bring their Beginning Band Books!

This week, we will begin using our *Essential Elements* band books. Students should label the books with their name, teacher, and school and should bring them every day.

If your student does not have an *Essential Elements* book, they can get [one online](#) or at most music stores.

Tuesday SIP Day-We will still have band!

Tuesday is an early dismissal, School Improvement Day on Halloween. We will still have band in the morning for Flutes, Oboes, French Horns, Trombones, and Baritones!

Thursday, November 9th-No Band

On Thursday, November 9th, the Jr. High Bands will meet early in the morning to prepare for the Jr. High Veteran's Day Assemblies. We will not have band on Thursday, November 9th.

Halloween Music

Just for Some Halloween Fun! Here's a few great pieces of music to help you celebrate Halloween, all videos of live performances too!

[Danse Macabre by Saint Saens](#)

[Night on Bald Mountain by Modest Mussorgsky](#)

[Tocatta and Fugue by JS Bach](#)

[Black Angels by George Crumb \(Really Scary Sounding!\)](#)

[The Sorcerer's Apprentice by Paul Dukas](#)

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Percussion Auditions

Calendar Information

For the most up to date calendar information, check out the [website calendar](#).

Auditions for positions in the percussion section are approaching. There are two clinics where all band students are invited to come learn about percussion, find out about the auditions, and try playing percussion. After the two clinics, auditions are scheduled by appointment. Parents are asked to come to the beginning of the first clinic for a brief presentation. The Dates are:

Wednesday, November 29th, 6-8pm in the Carriel Band Room
Monday, December 11th, 6-8pm in the Carriel Band Room
Wednesday, December 13th, auditions by appointment in the Carriel Band Room.

Questions or Concerns?

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to email me at mdonahue@of90.net

Concert Coming Up

On December 6th, we'll have our first performance, Christmas in O'Fallon held at the OTHS Panther Dome. This concert features 5th grade through 12th grade band students performing a variety of holiday music. The concert will start at 7pm, with 5th graders needing to be there by 6:15pm.

Google Classroom

To aid in communicating with students and to provide them with additional resources, we are slowly creating google classrooms for each instrument. The first two are up, and students can add themselves using their @of90student.net email and the following codes:

- Trumpets: 1fom1s
- Trombones/Baritones: syl2y6n

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This Week in Band...

- We will begin working on reading music and rhythms!
- We will be working on mastering the first 5 notes.
- We will begin learning more songs and patterns using the first 5 notes
- At this point, students know "Hot Cross Buns" and are learning "Mary Had a Little Lamb". One of the best things you can do to help support them is ask them to perform one of the songs for you! This encourages them to play at home and share what they learned (and is an easy way to encourage some extra practice!)

Private Lessons Reminder

Due to the steep learning curve for the French Horn and Oboe, these students are required to take private lessons. There is still time to sign up for lessons with the outstanding mentors we have in our area. We require this to ensure that your student is going to be successful on their instrument. If you have any questions about finding a private lesson teacher contact myself at mdonahue@of90.net or Mr. Kennedy at akennedy@of90.net.

What should I hear and see at home?

- Long, sustained notes on the mouthpiece/headjoint, and the instrument.
- Great, seated posture when playing the instrument with back away from the back of the chair
- Short practice sessions focusing on long notes, not using a music book or stand yet.
- Students taking the time to clean their instrument when they're done practicing.
- Hot Cross Buns
- Mary Had a Little Lamb
- Ode to Joy

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Repair Information

Heaven forbid, if an instrument breaks and you need an instrument repair, the best way to accomplish it in a timely manner is:

- [Fill out this form](#)
- Have your student take out their reeds, mouthpiece, supplies, etc. from their instrument case for use with their loaner instrument.
- Michael, our M&A rep will pick up the repair (usually on Fridays).
- Repair should be completed within about a week.
- Feel free to contact our rep, Michael Bryant at:
 - William Bryant <William.Bryant@musicarts.com>