

6th Grade Band

Beloit Elementary School

Mr. Michael Harbaugh - Instrumental Music Teacher

mharbaugh@usd273.org

Mrs. Kristi Vetter- Instrumental Music Teacher

kvetter@usd273.org

August 9, 2017

6th Grade Band Students and Parents,

6th Grade Band rehearsals and lessons will begin on **Friday, August 15**. Students need to bring their instrument to band on the 16th. There is no charge for the lessons. **The 2017-2018 band instrument rental fee of \$16.28 is due for those using a School Owned Band Instrument. Please pay the fees in the school office on or before September 11, 2017.**

Please pay the fees in the school office and give the receipt to Mr. Harbaugh.

We will continue with BAND EXPRESSIONS Book 1 at the beginning of the school year. The Beloit Elementary School office will sell **3 clarinet reeds for \$8.00 and 3 saxophone reeds for \$10.00.**

Band lessons will be scheduled during Ms. Jeardoe's Special Music Class periods once each week. The entire **6th grade band** will rehearse 2:45 PM - 3:25 PM each Monday and Wednesday and 2:00 PM - 2:40 PM each Friday.

USD 273 will not provide insurance on private instruments so there will be no band fee this year. (Students purchasing instruments from Tom's Music House may have purchased a "maintenance/insurance" plan, otherwise you may wish to check with your insurance agent about your student instruments.)

Grades of S or N and comments will appear on their BES Grade Card at the end of each 9 week grading period. Daily grades and comments will be posted on Skyward, the students will be graded on participation and effort for each rehearsal.

The only way to progress is through a regular, definite schedule of home practice. Beginners should practice 20 minutes a day at first. Later they should be encouraged to practice 30 minutes a day. The exact amount of time is relatively unimportant, what is important is **DAILY PRACTICE.**

6th grade band students will take several very short "performance exams" during the school year. These exams are intended to encourage the students to practice the parts of the music that need extra attention for the band to perform best. The exams will be graded on a small number of specific skills (usually note reading and counting) with bonus points for those keeping excellent practice records up to date. The practice record must be initialed by the parents to receive any credit, please help the students keep accurate records up to date. ***Since the exams are graded on specific skills and not the overall performance they should not be considered by the student, parent, or teacher as an overall performance indication.*** The criteria and length of the tests will be increased with tests given less often as we progress. Students will be seated in their Band sections using this performance material. I will attempt to offer constructive criticism of the performance and hope that this "game" will be a fun way to progress. In music we do not compete with each other as much as we are on a quest for success! Please keep in mind that music is an art form although we do have measurable goals that help us

master the fundamentals of a sound performance.

The 6th grade band will present three public performances during the school year. The band will perform for the students of the Beloit Elementary School as part of an assembly that begins at 8:20 on Thursday, December 21. The 6th Grade Class program has been scheduled for **Thursday, December 14** at 7:00 PM, the 6th Grade Band will perform and the program will also feature the 6th grade vocal music students. The 6th Grade Band will also perform on the program at the Beloit Elementary School on Thursday, April 19 at 7:00 PM.

Sincerely,

Mr. Michael Harbaugh
Instrumental Music Teacher

Mrs. Kristi Vetter
Instrumental Music Teacher

Thibault's group will have band lessons at **8:37 AM each Monday** during Music special class beginning **Monday, August 21**. Thibault's students will need their band instrument every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Practice records will be graded every Monday.

Abell's group will have lessons at **8:10 AM each Tuesday** during Music special class beginning **Tuesday, August 22**. Abell's students will need their band instrument every Monday, **Tuesday**, Wednesday, and Friday. Practice records will be graded every Tuesday.

Fenley's group will have lessons at **8:37 AM each Wednesday** during Music special class beginning **Wednesday, August 23**. Fenley's students will need their band instrument every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Practice records will be graded every Wednesday.