

My Circus!!

Recruitment and Retention- How do we get them? How do we keep them?

Recruiting should be a year-round, ongoing process. Every opportunity to share musical groups with potential students/parents/community should be taken. The “musical product” of the program is the greatest recruiting tool that you have. Use it to your full advantage. The “bonus” is that those students doing the performing will be more likely to stay in the program. As their skills grow, so will the appreciation they receive from their audiences. It is truly a win-win!

- I. Always Be Prepared! Have a Recruitment Plan.
 - a. Logistics
 - b. Strategy development with technology facilitators, elementary music teachers, and classroom teachers.
 - c. Student engagement
 1. Information *about* students.
 2. Information *for* students.
 3. Testing of students.
 - d. Parent engagement
 1. Information about the program for potential students.
 2. Results of student testing.
 3. Specific information at parent meeting to include instrument selection process, cost, expectations, etc.
 4. Follow-up communication with parents
- II. Practice Makes Perfect
 - a. Good habits create great ensembles.
 1. Establish expectations.
 2. Good routines become good habits.
 3. Fundamentals are the foundation to success.
 - b. Creativity with good habits will keep students engaged and wanting to continue in the program.
 1. Keep routines “spiced up” with variations.
 2. Always keep the students guessing to keep them engaged.
- III. But- They Didn’t Join to Practice!
 - a. Informances/Performances
 1. Have many and often.
 2. Combine with older students and adult groups to demonstrate what the future holds.
 - b. Share talents with others.
 1. Perform via technology.
 2. Seek out alternative performance opportunities.

- IV. Foundations for the Future
 - a. Every day is leading to the future of your program. Use each day wisely.
 - b. Speak in terms of longevity when addressing students and parents.
 - c. Partner younger students with older mentors.
 - d. Establish a structured Mentoring Program.
 - e. Parents want their children to enjoy being in your group. They are your greatest ally.
- V. The Future is Now
 - a. Once students get to high school the retention plan needs to continue to be developed.
 - b. Some students stay because they really want to work hard and be in the top group. Others just enjoy making music with their friends. Others continue because it is “easy” and they like the routine of knowing what will take place.
 - 1. The truth is- all of these are valid reasons to stay in music.
 - 2. Make each ensemble the best experience it can be for the students no matter what their motivation for taking the class is.
 - 3. Don’t let “2nd” groups become the dumping ground. Those students deserve our greatest efforts just as a #1 group does. They too are part of the feeder program.
 - 4. Students (especially high school) need to be reminded of their value to the program. Allow them to have a voice (limited) in decision making. Example: Parade tune, pops concert theme, t-shirt design, banquet decorations.
 - 5. Develop a sense of “student ownership” and “band family”.

Great retention leads to great recruitment which leads to great retention and so on.

Let the Circus continue!

Develop an Excel file to allow general music teachers to share information about students.

Please place an X in each category that applies to the student. If there is additional information you wish to share, please email directly to the Band Office.

Thank you for your input. The musical foundation that you have provided for them will guide them to success in our band program.

Student Name	Easily Matches Pitch	Willing to Solo	Positive toward learning new music concepts.	Takes Piano Lessons.	Sings outside of school-Church, Civic Choir	Has siblings that have gone through the program.	Parents were in a band program.	Works well with others.	Other comments will be emailed.
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Welcome to the Adventure of Being in the Band!!!

Today students experienced band instrument try-outs. It is our goal to help every student be successful if they choose to sign up for band class. All students are encouraged to try band for a year to see if it is something they will enjoy.

Students had the opportunity to try 2-3 instruments of their choice. They were assisted by a Band Director and were then given feedback based on the Rubric below. Your student has been given the following recommendation:

Student: _____ School: _____

Instrument: _____ Score _____ Instrument: _____ Score _____

Testing Rubric:

4 *A perfect fit

*Easily produces a good sound

*You and this instrument belong together!

*Very rhythmically accurate and superior wrist agility

3 *A good fit

*Produces a good sound with extra assistance *Will have success with additional effort

*Rhythmically accurate and moderate wrist agility

2 *An okay fit but not the best

*Is able to produce a sound but took a great effort *Will need to work very hard for success

*Did not demonstrate rhythmic accuracy or wrist agility

1 *A poor fit. Had difficulty producing a sound. Not recommended.

Our parent information meeting will be held in the Middle School Cafeteria on Thursday, March 18 at 7:00 p.m. Please make every effort to attend. Contact the Middle School Band office at xxx-xxxx after the meeting if you were unable to attend but would like information.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BEGINNING BAND MEETING

Welcome to Beginning Band.

We are so pleased that you have decided to become a part of this great Band tradition. Please feel free to contact any director if you have additional questions.

- Band class will begin on the first day of school. Students will need their instrument, book, and supplies. Make sure your name is on EVERYTHING! Music stands are for use at home. The book we use is XXXXXXX. ***Students should NOT put instruments together or try to play them until they are taught to do so during class.***
- A schedule of all performances will be given to students at the beginning of school.
- Student success depends on parental support and a regularly scheduled practice time at home.
- ***Be very careful when acquiring an instrument. Students must have an instrument that is in good working order. Musical instruments are not toys. Be aware that when purchasing from a catalog or auction site you may be buying an inferior instrument that will cause frustration for you and your child. Not all manufacturers build instruments according to specific standards with up-to-date technology. Therefore, we recommend the following brands of instruments for use in our band program.***

Flute- XXX

Oboe- XXX

Clarinet (Wood)- XXX

Saxophone- XXX

Trumpet- XXX

French Horn- XXX

Trombone-XXX

Percussion Kit- XXX

Accessories- Instruments using reeds should always have a minimum of 4 good reeds at all times. These MUST be kept in a reed guard. It is recommended that students have a cleaning kit for their instrument.

Clarinet & Saxophone Reeds- XXX

Oboe & Bassoon Reeds- XXX (purchase 2 with a water cup & clip)

Mouthpieces- Clarinet- XXX Trumpet- XXX

Horn- XXX **Trombone-** XXX **Euphonium-** XXX

FAQ ABOUT BEGINNING BAND!

When do students meet? Students will have band class each day, just like their other classes. This meets the music requirement as set forth by the Department of Public Instruction.

How much does it cost? The cost depends on which instrument is being played. Flutes, Clarinets, Oboes, Saxophones, Trumpets, Trombones, and Percussion Kits must be supplied by the students. Those students that were selected for Bassoon, French Horn, Euphonium, or Tuba rent those from the Public Schools. Students wear a Band T-shirt and blue jeans for performances. Shirt cost is \$XX.

Does band interfere with other activities that my child is in? Band is a class just like science, math, history, etc. Students will perform on XX concerts and participate in XX music festivals. These are announced at the beginning of the school year, so parents and students have ample time to make arrangements in their schedule to attend.

Does my child have homework for band? Yes, they do. Students need to practice a minimum of 100 minutes per week. We all know that “practice makes perfect”. The more they practice the better players they will become and the more they will enjoy making music.

Does my child get a grade in band? Yes, they will receive assessment grades for band just like they do in all of their other classes.

Is band really for everyone? EVERYONE can make music. Students will never know if band is for them until they try it.

What kind of students are the most successful in band? The greatest success stories we have in the band program are those students that are in many different activities. Students are in band and other activities including hockey, football, basketball, dance, cheerleading, gymnastics, volleyball, scouts, 4H, theater, children’s choir, church groups, and many more!

LET THE BAND ADVENTURE BEGIN!