

Slauson Middle School Band Information

8th Grade

Parents and Students:

We want to thank you for your continued support of our young musicians and the Slauson Music Department program!!

Contact Information

Please email at any time with questions or concerns.

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Website: slausonmusic.com

Goals

1. To promote and encourage a lifelong interest and participation in music.
2. To increase individual skills and knowledge as a basis for developing individual musical growth.
3. To instill value of effort, teamwork, cooperation, fellowship, self-discipline and dedication.
4. To strive for excellence.

Grading

Student assessment is based on the following: Participation; Concert Performance; Written Assignments; Playing Tests and Practice Organizers.

Participation: This grade is earned daily and is based on positive, productive participation which includes the student's punctuality, effort during class and their ability to be prepared by having all of their materials (planner, pencil, instrument, music).

Band is a year-long elective: Choosing a year-long music class requires an enhanced commitment from students and families. Consistent personnel throughout the year is essential for student learning as well as teacher planning. If you find yourself facing challenges that jeopardize this year-long commitment, please contact music teachers and counselors first to try work through any problems.

Concert Performance: All students are required to attend all performances. Each student's presence at performances is essential to the success of the ensemble. If the student is on time, in proper uniform, and contributes properly to the performance, he/she will receive full credit for that performance. Problems with transportation, conflicts with family plans, etc., should be resolved by the individual to avoid conflicts with band activities. Concerts are special events and they are treated like a final exam as they are the result of many hours of rehearsals and practice.

Please refer to the Slauson concert calendar. In the event of an emergency or unavoidable conflict, please notify the director as soon as possible.

Written/Playing Tests: These assessments are always conducted during regular class time. It is the responsibility of the student to make up any missed tests.

Practice Organizers: Practice organizers start around the third week of school. Each student is required to record the week's practice goals and reflect on practice activities. Organizers are intended to teach students a proper and efficient way to practice.

Uniform

The uniform for all band performances is a white shirt (collar shirts are best) and black from the waist down (including black socks). Skirts are acceptable provided they are not short or tight. Socks/ Shoes should also be black

Eighth grade band members will be issued a black Slauson Music Department shirt that is provided for "away" performances. Shirts should be laundered or dry-cleaned before return.

School Instruments/Equipment

Students using school equipment are responsible for loss or damage, accidental or intentional. Students sharing school instruments are also held to this standard. Be aware that there is no music budget or school insurance to cover student damage.

“Practice Makes Progress”

Excellence is achieved through persistence and hard work. Band students are expected to work well in class, as well as practice their instrument outside of class. Our experience has shown that students who practice regularly are the ones who are successful and happy with their band experience because they feel comfortable with their instrument and the class material. Please encourage your child to practice on a regular basis. Frequency is more important than time spent in an individual session. The Practice Organizer will help students use their time efficiently. Chances to Practice in School --after school, advisory and lunch with permission from staff. **NEED HELP????** Schedule an appointment for us to assist you after school.

Parent FYI

*****PARENTS - You are advised to check your home owners/renters policy for personal instrument coverage outside the home and to keep a record of the instrument information (make, model, serial#). When using a school instrument please be aware that there is no music budget to repair student damages and school insurance does not cover any instrument loss or damage.

Private Lessons

All students will benefit from private lessons and we urge all students to consider taking lessons sometime during their middle school career. Private lessons are recommended for those needing additional individualized support as well as those seeking support for advancement in high school. There are a number of good private teachers in the area that we can recommend. Please request by email.

Summer Camp

Consider sending your child to a music camp next summer. Incoming 9th grade students who successfully audition for the upper bands are expected to go to the Pioneer Band Camp. Because of limited space, Varsity Band members are invited on a first come first serve bases so sign up early! Scholarship opportunities may be available.

Important Dates – Please Mark Your Calendars

Slauson 8th Grade Concerts

- **Winter Concert - Tuesday, December 3rd, 2019; 6:30PM**
- **Bands In Review Saturday, March 14th, 2020, Time: Evening at Pioneer HS.**
- **Spring Concert - Thursday, May 7th, 2020; 6:30PM**
- **Picnic Pops - Saturday, May 16th, 2020. Time: TBA, Daytime, Pioneer HS**

Slauson 8th Grade Band Special Events

- ***All- State Middle School Band – A competitive opportunity for advanced students. Audition fees/registration due Friday, September 20th. Student Auditions will be Oct. 26th and 27th. Jan. 16-18 is the performance weekend.**
- **Full Orchestra Auditions: Late October, Tentative, (not open to all instrument types)**
- **Solo-Ensemble Festival - Saturday, February 8th, 2020.
Location - TBD (optional for interested students). Entry fees/application for S/E is due early November. Interested students should ask us for S/E information around Halloween.**
- **Orchestra Night - Thursday, February 27th, 2020, 7:00PM at Hill Auditorium (includes only full orchestra winds and percussion)**
- **High School Auditions - Usually at the end of March- early April. All 8th grade band students prepare the audition music. Audition music is made available in January.**