



## **Welcome to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band at Slauson!**

### **Contact Information**

Please email at any time with questions or concerns.

Gene Bartley: [bartley@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:bartley@aaps.k12.mi.us)

**Music Website:** [slausonmusic.com](http://slausonmusic.com)

### **Daily Classroom Requirements**

Bring your school planner, music folder, instrument, and pencil to every class. Be on time and ready to work as a team member.

**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.

### **Performances**

Winter Concert: Thursday, January TBD @ 6:30 PM.

Spring Concert: Thursday, May TBD @ 6:30 PM.

Attendance is required at all performances, so please mark your calendars!

Blue Lake Scholarship Auditions – Sometime between the end of Jan. and the end of Feb.

**Uniform:** White from the waist up – Black from the waist down.

### **Practice – “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. Their weekly Practice Organizer will help students use their time efficiently.

### **Band Equipment**

All students will use school equipment of some kind for band, whether it is an instrument, a music stand, or other equipment. Students are responsible for the equipment they use, and will be held responsible for any damage or loss they cause, accidental or intentional. Your instrument case should be labeled with your name. For safety reasons, take your instrument home with you every night. When using a school instrument, please be aware that there is no music budget or school insurance to cover student damage.

**\*\*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 number).

### **Instruments**

Basic band instruments are provided to AAPS students in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, however, most middle school students rent or buy their own. Exceptions to this are due to size, difficulty, cost, and financial need. Please contact us if you need to borrow an instrument for short-term or long-term use due to logistics or financial need.

**Acquiring an Instrument** – Please do not hesitate to contact us for assistance.

**Buying New:** Pay attention to the brand names listed below. A new instrument that is an inferior brand can be a headache if it has to constantly be repaired. A less expensive instrument could cost you more time, money and frustration in the long run. **Buying Used:** This can be a low risk option if the instrument is in good shape. It is a good idea to have a music teacher or a music store inspect the instrument before buying if you are unsure of the quality. Most people will let you leave a deposit while you have it checked.

**Rent to Own:** Some of the local music stores will rent an instrument to you, and after a certain amount of time you will own the instrument. Meridian Winds offers a plan that includes insurance, repair, and loaner instruments. They also visit Slauson weekly. You can rent through their website: [meridianwinds.com](http://meridianwinds.com)

### **Brands to Consider:**

Flute: Yamaha, Gemeinhardt, Jupiter, Selmer, Armstrong, Dean, Emerson

Clarinets: Yamaha, Buffet, Bundy, Selmer

Alto Saxophone: Yamaha, Selmer, Bundy, Blessing, LeBlanc

Trumpet: Yamaha, Bach, Getzen, Holton, Conn, Chateau

Double French Horn: Holton, Conn, Yamaha

Trombone/ Baritone: Holton, Bach, Yamaha, Conn, Olds, Chateau

Percussion Kit, Sticks, Mallets, and Stick Bag:

Kit: Yamaha, Pearl, Ludwig, Musser.

Kit must include a set of bells and either a snare drum or drum pad.

Sticks and Mallets: Snare drum sticks: Vic Firth “SD1 General” (no skinny sticks or plastic tips), Medium Bell/Xylophone mallets: Encore “92R” or Vic Firth “M 132”

Hard Bell Mallets: Mike Balter “91R” or Vic Firth “M 133”

Stick bag/carrier: Any drum stick bag or sturdy bag from home is fine.

### **Switching Instruments**

Early in the school year, students may have an opportunity to progress naturally to a related instrument. Examples of this would be from clarinet to bass clarinet or baritone to tuba. These types of changes within an instrument family have relatively high success rates. Instrument changes that are unrelated, such as trumpet to percussion or violin to tuba generally have a lower success rate due to basic instruction differences, and therefore are not encouraged. If you are considering a logical instrument switch, it is essential to discuss this with us to see if this change is acceptable for student success. Decisions may also need to include ensemble considerations. To ensure success, a student-teacher-parent plan is essential.

\*Many of the larger, more expensive instruments are provided by AAPS.

### **Supplies Needed**

All students will need to acquire their own instrument maintenance supplies. Please look for a provided Instrument Supply Checklist to be distributed at Capsule Night and/or given to students for details.

### **Music Stores and Repair Information**

- Meridian Winds, 1-517-351-2263, Okemos, MI. A repairman visits Slauson every Wednesday for repairs, instrument rentals and supply order delivery. [meridianwinds.com](http://meridianwinds.com)
- Music Go Round, 1-734-662-1080, Ann Arbor, Oak Valley Center (near Target), used instruments, books, supplies
- Oz’s Music, Packard Road, 1-734-662-1080

- Woodwind and Brasswind, South Bend, IN, [www.wwbw.com](http://www.wwbw.com), 1-800-348-5003, lowest mail order pricing.
- Pepper Music, 1-800-345-6296, [www.jwpepper.com](http://www.jwpepper.com), sheet music and music books

### **Private Lessons**

All students are encouraged, but not required, to take private lessons on their instrument. Students seeking more of a challenge, students who wish to become better players, and students who may be having difficulty with their instrument are all great candidates for private lessons. Contact us for a list of names and numbers of instructors in our area if you are interested.