

### Getting an instrument

Band instruction begins in August with the summer “Jump Start” camp. Arrangements for your instrument must be made by this point in time. It is important that students wait until Jump Start to try their instrument! We want to make sure that you know what you’re doing before you experiment with it! Regardless if you rent or buy your instrument, please arrange to have it delivered ONLY when the lessons begin. Music stores will deliver it directly to the school so it is waiting for the students for their first lesson. The following are ways to obtain an instrument.

1. Rent from a music store. Northern Music is here tonight to explain their rentals.
2. Rent from school (for low brass instruments: French Horn, Baritone, Tuba, & Oboe)
3. Fix up an instrument from a friend or family member. (Please have it professionally cleaned and inspected before using it!)
4. Contact Mr. Neidner if your situation makes the above choices challenging.

### Recommended Band Instrument List

The following list displays instrument brands that are recommended by the Marshfield Band Program. Its sole purpose is to help families make an informed purchase of a quality musical instrument. These instrument brands represent a long history of reliability, reparability, quality sound, resale value, and in most cases, will last all the way from 6th-12th grade!

(This info is on our website as well.)

**Flute:** Armstrong, Artley, Gemeinhardt, Selmer, Yamaha (nickel plated instruments aren’t recommended)

**Clarinet:** Artley, Buffet, LeBlanc, Normandy, Selmer, Vito, Yamaha (Black Finish, Drop Forged Keys)

**Alto Saxophone:** Conn, King, Selmer, Vito, Yamaha, Yanagisawa (High F# key, Gold or Silver Finish)

**Trumpet:** Bach, Conn, Getzen, Holton, King, Yamaha (1st valve thumb saddle, Gold or Silver Finish)

**Trombone:** Conn, Holton, King, Yamaha (Gold or Silver Finish)

**\*Please see Mr. Neidner if you have a question about a brand not on this list. I want you to have the best quality instrument you can afford, and I have your child’s best interest solely in mind!\***

## Welcome to the band program!

If you haven’t yet, please take a moment to fill out and return the blue information sheet that you received as you entered the band room



[www.marshfieldbands.weebly.com](http://www.marshfieldbands.weebly.com)

The Marshfield School District Band Program provides the opportunity to play a band instrument to any student between their 5th and 6th grade school year. Playing a musical instrument is a fulfilling experience, and it can: improve memory skills, refine time management skills, enhance coordination, provide exposure to cultural history, boost team building skills, and: It’s a Rockin’ good time!

This timeline outlines the elementary band program currently:

#### April

- Students see a demonstration concert by the high school orchestra/band
- Informational sheets are sent home about joining the band (progress reports and USPS mail)

#### May

- Join band meeting @ Marshfield High School
- Fitting conferences at elementary schools. (Slips will be sent home after fitting an instrument, so that you know the final choice!)

#### June-July

- Parental arrangements for acquiring an instrument are made. (See our website for more info.)
- Students need their instruments by the first week in August.

#### August

- “Jump Start” band program August 4-15 (Provides three 1 hour lessons per week for two weeks)

#### September

- School begins; lessons at each school begin

#### October

- After school band rehearsals begin at Marshfield High School (3:15PM-4:00PM)

January - winter band concert

May - spring band concert

## Marshfield Elementary Band Program

Mr. Neidner - Director

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(715) 387-8464 ext. 4392

# Practice is the Key to success!



The key to being successful in anything you do is to practice. Band is no exception to that rule. Without sufficient practice, there is no development of muscle, coordination, endurance, rhythm, intonation or tone. There will always be ups and downs in a student's mood and attitude towards practice, but it cannot stop! Parents play a big role in encouraging practice, but students need to have a personal commitment as well.

**PRACTICE AT HOME:** A recommended minimum of 90 minutes per week of practice is necessary if your child is to have a successful experience in band. This time should be on a regular basis and should be at least 15-20 minutes per session. A practice area free from distraction is key, as well as a music stand to hold music.

**PRACTICE SHEETS:** Practice sheets are used to record student practice each week. At the beginning of each month, students will get a new practice sheet, and turn it in at the end of the month. Mr. Neidner records their practice times throughout the year, and gauges their progress in practicing. These sheets help develop good practice habits.

**LESSONS:** During the school year, each student receives a weekly band lesson at their school. Each lesson is 20-30 minutes long (based on how many students are enrolled in band.)

**REHEARSALS:** Large group rehearsals for all first year band students are held weekly in the High School Band Room. These take place on **Mondays from 3:15PM-4:00PM**. These are extremely important because it helps develop instrument identity within a large group.

## **ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED!**

### **Monday Large Group Rehearsals**

The Monday large group rehearsals are a key element to developing the band. It is here that we learn the true nature of the "team" philosophy, and where new friends are often made. Any student not able to provide their own transportation to the High School on Mondays may simply ride the bus after school that day. Once there, students should proceed directly to the high school band room. You will still need to arrange to pick your child up at the end of rehearsal. (4:00PM)

  
**KEEP  
CALM AND  
PRACTICE  
YOUR  
INSTRUMENT**

## Necessities & Accessories

See our website for places to purchase from

### **All students:**

- Essential Elements 2000, Book 1
- Music Stand

### **Clarinet, Oboe, Saxophone:**

- 2 working reeds at all times (\$2-\$3 per reed)
- Reed guard and/or pad guards (optional)
- Cleaning swab and cork grease

### **Brass players:**

- Valve Oil

- Slide grease/cleaning kit

### **Percussion:**

- Stick bag, mallets, drum sticks, percussion kit

### **Band Fitting Conferences**

Most students know what instrument they want to play. Fitting conferences are designed to make sure that students don't have any obstacles that would prevent them from playing that instrument. Mr. Neidner will be coming around and having students try out their top 2 instruments. After this, the student and Mr. Neidner will come to a decision on an instrument to play for next year, and a sheet will be sent home with the student to finalize an instrument choice. Fitting conferences are about 15 minutes long and held during the school day. Mr. Neidner will contact your teacher to let them know when to expect him. Mr. Neidner will work with the classroom teacher to make sure that students are pulled from class at an appropriate time.

### **"Jump Start" Band Camp**

Instruction on each instrument begins at the summer Jump Start band camp. This band camp consists of three 1 hour lessons per week for two weeks. During this time, students learn to assemble and care for their instruments, as well as learn how to produce a tone, read notes, rhythms, and proper posture and breathing. An example schedule of this would be:

8:00AM - Flutes

9:00AM - Clarinets

10:00AM - Saxophones

11:00AM - Trumpets

1:00PM - Low Brass

2:00PM - Percussion

\*Each instrument section will be put into two groups. \*

Group 1 will practice M, W, F

Group 2 will practice T, TH, F

**Students unable to make summer jump start are still able and encouraged to join band in the fall!**