

Webutuck Central Schools

Music Department

Dear Beginning Band Families,

Thank you for providing the opportunity for your student to learn a band instrument. It means so much! I am inviting you to join in your student's musical journey. You don't need any prior musical experience, just *interest* and *patience*.

GROWTH.

TAKES.

TIME.

A few things to keep in mind:

1. ***Growth takes time.*** Musicianship is a combination of skills and knowledge that develop with *experience* over time. Each person's journey will be unique and that's ok!
2. Learning music can be a noisy process. There will be noise before there is music! This is normal. Help your student find a time and place to practice that will work for your household. If noise is a challenge there are some strategies that we can use to help deal with that. Please reach out if you need suggestions.
3. Encourage your student to play their instrument every day if possible. Setting a schedule can be helpful. No worries if they miss a day - they can pick it up the next day - but regular practice is essential!. Try not to let 2 days go by without them working on their skills. 10-15 minutes a day is a good starting place. Even 5 minutes is better than 0 minutes!
4. Students will start learning skills separately from their instruments - making a sound, knowing how to identify notes and fingerings, understanding rhythms, etc. This will ensure that students are much more likely to be successful when we move on to making music with our instruments and method books.
5. Encourage your student to show you what they've been working on! Have them teach you what they have learned. Ask questions. There are many interactive resources for you and your student to use at home to assist in learning. More to come on this.
6. Student's abilities will change as they have more experience but also as they grow physically.
7. Listen to music with your student in different styles featuring your student's instrument. Like learning a language, hearing it "spoken" around you makes a huge difference in development.
8. If you or your student have questions, don't wait to ask them. Reach out to me.

I am very much looking forward to working with our Beginning Band students. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Musically,
Eric Wiener
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Instrumental Music Guide

1- *Instruments - flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone/euphonium, bell kit (percussion)*

- Provide your own - instrument in good working order. If you are not sure about the condition, take it to a qualified repair person for evaluation or I am happy to look them over. Even new instruments might need adjustments.
- Rent - *Please sign to up rent as soon as possible* in order to avoid delays and get the best instruments. Rental instruments will be delivered to school in September.
<https://www.johnkealmusic.com/aeRntSchoolSelect.aspx>
- School instrument - limited and provided as available

2-*Supplies*

All students will need the following supplies for their instrument. You can purchase supplies at any music store or online. If you purchase through John Keal Music you can choose *free school delivery*. If you are unable to provide supplies, please let me know.

<https://www.johnkealmusic.com/c-1444-webutuck.aspx>

- Method book - Essential Elements Interactive Book 1
- Music stand - necessary to hold sheet music and method book while playing at home
- Care kit - Essential maintenance items for most instruments
- Reeds - *clarinet and saxophone only*. Reeds are small pieces of wood that vibrate to make the sound. They wear-out or break and need to be replaced. Each reed is made to a specific instrument and has a *strength* to indicate the level of resistance. Beginners should start with *Rico reeds #2 strength*. Purchase a *box of 10* for clarinet or alto saxophone.
- Valve oil - *trumpet/baritone/euphonium* - valves on brass instruments need to be lubricated regularly. This is included in the care kit or can be purchased separately as needed.
- Slide oil - *trombone* - lubricant to keep the slide moving freely on trombone. This is included in the care kit or can be purchased separately as needed.

3-*Expectations*

Students in Beginning Band will:

- Participate in small group lessons 1x/cycle
- Participate in Band class 1x/cycle
- Practice their instrument at home
- Participate in school presentations
- Be prepared for class/lessons with: sharpened pencils, instrument, method book and instrument specific supplies such as reeds, valve oil, drums sticks, etc
- Practice general instrument care and safety