



# MARSHFIELD MUSIC DEPARTMENT

## Marshfield Public Schools Elementary Band Program Information 2020-2021

**Mr. Neidner**

Elementary Band Director

[neidner@marshfieldschools.org](mailto:neidner@marshfieldschools.org)

715-387-8464 ext. 4392

**More Info on the Instruments:** visit this website to learn more about the instruments in the band.

<https://www.bepartofthemusic.org/group/index.php?id=1193>

### Getting an Instrument/Supplies

**All students** need Essential Elements for Band, Book 1 for their particular instrument. This is available from the music store when you rent or purchase an instrument. In addition, students will need:

**Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Saxophone:** Cleaning kit, cork grease, reeds (2.0 hardness, get at least 3), neck strap (for saxophone)

**Brass (Trumpet, Horn, Baritone, Trombone, Tuba):** valve oil, mouthpiece brush, cleaning kit

**Percussion:** Percussion kit, stick bag, Vic Firth SD1 General drumsticks, soft yarn mallets, soft rubber mallets

### Ways to obtain an instrument:

- Rent from a music store. Heid Music in Stevens Point or Northern Music here in Marshfield have family friendly rental plans for all instruments.
- Fix up an instrument from a family member (please have professional cleaning and inspection done before using a used instrument).
- Contact Mr. Neidner if your situation makes the above choices challenging.

**Renting:** Most of our students rent an instrument through Heid Music in Stevens Point or Northern Music Store right here in Marshfield, located behind Culver's. You will need to go into Northern Music to setup a rental agreement with the store or go to Heid's website to sign up for a rental. Once you've setup rental at the music store, do you just get to take it home and try it out before you get your lessons? Not quite!! It is important to have proper instruction on the setup of your instrument to ensure that no bad habits develop. The music stores will drop off all instruments rented through them at the high school for the beginning of the school year. Your instrument rental fee for the year will begin as soon as you get to take your instrument home. This will not necessarily be the case if you obtain your instrument from another place.

Band instruction begins the second full week of school in September. Arrangements for your instrument must be made by this time. It is important that students do not “experiment” with their instruments before they have instruction on how to use it properly. Regardless of when you rent or buy your instrument, please arrange to have it delivered to school only when lessons begin.

### **Practice! Practice! Practice!**

The key to a successful musical experience hinges on regular, consistent practice. Without 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 practicing, but it cannot stop. Parents play a big role in encouraging practice, but students need to have personal commitment as well.

**Practice at Home:** A recommended minimum of 60 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 range from 5-10 minutes in the beginning to 15-20 minutes per session later on. They must have an area free from distractions, and to ensure proper posture a music stand is a must.

**Practice Calendars:** Practice calendars are used to record student practice time. Students are to bring the calendars, complete with time recorded and parent signature, to each lesson. These calendars help the students develop good practice habits. Students will receive a new one each month.

**Lessons:** During the school year every student receives a weekly lesson at his/her school. Lessons are 25 minutes and will be with students that play the same instrument.

\*Because students are pulled from class for their lessons, students are responsible for any missed work. If this is an issue for a certain class, we can attempt to accommodate those needs and adjust the lesson schedule.

**Rehearsals:** Full group rehearsals for all band students are held weekly in the High School Band Room beginning October 26th on Monday afternoons. These rehearsals are very important to your child’s musical development within a musical group. **ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED!**

**Getting to Monday Night Rehearsal:** The Monday night large group rehearsals are a key element in developing the Band. It is here that we learn the true nature of the “team” philosophy, and where new friends are often made. Students may simply ride the bus after school that day to the High School. 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.

### **Important Dates for 2020-2021**

- **September 2020:** School begins, lessons start at each elementary school
- **October 26, 2020:** 6<sup>th</sup> grade string rehearsals begin at the High School 3:15-4:00. Monday evenings
- **January 26, 2021:** Winter Elementary Band Concert 7:00 p.m. in the MHS Auditorium
- **May 4, 2021:** Spring Elementary Band Concert 7:00pm MHS Auditorium

**Ready to get signed up??**

**All you need to do is fill out this form!**

**<https://forms.gle/ZUkSn7PwKwVgMrDZ7>**

Please contact Mr. Neidner with any questions.

I am looking forward to working with you next year!