Berwick Area School District
Salem Elementary
Band Handbook
2017-2018 School Year

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Inside you will find:
What Happens When Band Starts
Lesson Groupings and Lesson Schedule
Lesson Book and Instrument Requirements
Practice Suggestions
Concert Schedule
Concert Attire
Key Things to Remember
Practice Logs
**Elementary Band**

Elementary band is an introduction to band instruments and band ensemble playing, and it is open to interested 4th grade students. Students need not have any prior musical training to participate in the beginning program. Recruitment of new instrumentalists takes place in the fall during the first month of school. The band teacher is in contact with 4th grade students throughout the school district to identify those with an interest in the band program and to evaluate their ability to produce a sound on instruments of interest. Parents are then given the opportunity to attend an evening meeting where they can learn more about the band program, and a registration open house is held to register new students and facilitate rental of instruments. In addition to small group lessons and band rehearsal during the school day, all students in the elementary band program participate in after-school full band rehearsals in the week(s) leading up to our two annual concerts. It is here that members receive large ensemble training and prepare for our concerts. Attendance at all lessons, rehearsals, and concerts is required for the success of the individual, as well as that of the group.

**WITHDRAWL FROM BAND**

While we sincerely hope that every child will have a positive, enriching experience as part of the school band program, we understand that band may not be a good fit for every child. Band is intended to be an ongoing course of study. If a student decides to withdraw from band, it is most appropriate to do this after a concert or between school years. If a student plans to withdraw from the band program, the child’s band teacher must be notified in writing. Parents should also be sure to notify the music dealer that the instrument is being returned and that you no longer wish to rent. Your music dealer will give you instructions about to how to return the instrument.
What Happens When Lessons and Band Begin?

**Students will begin instrumental lessons during the school day on either Friday, October 6th or Monday, October 9th**

Instrumental lessons will take place in 30 minute increments during the school day on a rotating schedule on Day 2 or 3 of the five-day cycle. Students are grouped together by instrument. Students should come prepared with their instrument, lesson book, and pencil. Woodwinds will meet on Day 2. Brass and Percussion will meet on Day 3.

**Full band rehearsals will begin Monday October 9th at Recess**

Full band meets every Day 3 at Recess. Students should come prepared with their instrument, lesson book, and pencil. All students are expected to be in attendance at each rehearsal so proper preparation for our concerts take place.

**SNOW DAYS and SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS**

If school is cancelled due to inclement weather the school district’s 5-day cycle will continue where it left off. For example, if a day 2 is cancelled the following day back to school will be a day 2. It is the students’ responsibility to keep track of the school day cycle.
# Lesson Schedule

## Day 2

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Oct. 6</th>
<th>Oct. 13</th>
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<tr>
<td>12:30</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>D</td>
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<td>2:30</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>B</td>
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## Day 3

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<tr>
<td>Recess</td>
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<td>BAND</td>
<td>BAND</td>
<td>BAND</td>
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<tr>
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<td>J</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>J</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>G</td>
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<td>2:30</td>
<td>J</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Group A** Flute  
**Group B** Clarinet I  
**Group C** Clarinet II  
**Group D** Saxophone  
**Group E**  
**Group F** Trumpet I  
**Group G** Trumpet II  
**Group H** Trombone/Baritone  
**Group I** Percussion  
**Group J** Make Ups
OBTAINING AND INSTRUMENT

Parents are responsible for obtaining instruments for their children. Percussionists will need a percussion kit (Drum pad, bell set, sticks and mallets)

Robert M. Sides Family Music Centers
201 Mulberry Street
Williamsport PA 17701
(570) 326-2094
www.rmsides.com
*Rent Online*
They will drive the instrument to the school!
You may use any retailer you choose, I just wanted to give you a place to start looking if you need help 😊

INSTRUMENT CARE

It is the responsibility of every band member to keep their instrument in good playing condition at all times. Please do not attempt to do your own repairs! If there is a problem with your instrument, ask your child’s band teacher to look at it or call the instrument rental company directly. The repair and maintenance policy offered by your music dealer is an inexpensive, wise investment and is highly recommended! It is a good idea to have your instrument checked out by a qualified repair person each school year. Those things necessary for daily playing (oiling valves, polishing and adjusting, etc.) should be done prior to each lesson or rehearsal. Lesson and rehearsal time is valuable! No student is permitted to play or tamper with another student’s instrument, whether it be school-owned or privately-owned
LESSON BOOK AND MATERIALS

In order for your child to have the best possible experience in beginning band they will need to have the proper materials to help them succeed. Every student will be responsible to purchase a lesson book. The required book is titled, “Accent on Achievement, Book 1” and it must be for the specific instrument that they play. These books may be purchased at any music retailer. All students will also need a music stand to use while practicing their music at home.

In addition, the following instruments will require these materials:

Flute: Cleaning Swab, tuning rod
Clarinet/Saxophone: Cork Grease, Cleaning Swab, Several #2 Reeds (Juno is the preferred brand)
Trumpet/Baritone: Valve Oil, Slide Oil
Trombone: Slide Cream/Oil

WHAT TO PRACTICE

Beginning band students need to maintain steady progress through their method books each quarter. The beginning band curriculum consists of selected songs and studies from the method book Accent on Achievement, Book 1. Each week, students will be assigned several short tunes to practice. Each selection should be practiced throughout the course of that week, until the student can play it fluently. Throughout the first year of study, students will learn the basic techniques of their instruments, achieving a foundation for continued musical success.
PRACTICE HABITS FOR YOUNG MUSICIANS

A good home practice routine is crucial for a student’s success with a musical instrument, particularly in the early years of study, and parents/guardians can be a great HELP:

Help to set-up the best possible practice facility. The area should be well-lit, free from distractions, and should accommodate a straight-backed chair and music stand. If a CD or DVD player is available, the student can also play along with their method book’s accompaniment recordings.

Establish a regular time and routine for practice sessions. Success in band is a result of dedicated and consistent practice. Students should begin with warm-up exercises, and then move into the week’s assignment. Difficult spots should be isolated and worked out before the entire song is repeated. Students can end the practice session with a favorite tune, just for fun!

Listen enthusiastically to your child’s practicing. Try to recognize his/her efforts with specific comments, such as “The low notes on that piece are improving.” You are the audience your child will appreciate the most, and your encouragement means so much!

Participate in our three-way partnership: parents/guardians, student, and teacher working together to make band an enjoyable and worthwhile experience. Reinforce your child’s practice routine and review his/her practice chart each week. Contact your child’s band teacher with questions or concerns that come up throughout the year.
CONCERTS

Your child’s first band concert is sure to be a very exciting night for both musician and families alike.

Our Elementary Band and Chorus **Christmas Concert will be held on December 7th**. Our Elementary Band and Chorus **Spring Concert will be held on May 9th**. The concerts will be held in the Berwick Area High School Auditorium at 7:00 pm. Students should meet in the High School Rehearsal Room (located behind the stage) at 6:40 to warm up. **Remember to bring your instrument and music!**

There will be a $1 donation at the door for audience members ages 5 and up at the **Spring Concert**. This money goes in the Elementary Band and Chorus Activity fund to purchase music and other items which directly benefits the students.

DRESS REHEARSALS

Students will travel to the high school during the school day prior to the concerts to prepare for the performances. Permission slips will be needed to be signed for students to attend these mandatory rehearsals.

CONCERT ATTIRE

Students should wear “dress clothes” for the concert (no blue jeans, athletic wear or T-shirts with writing on them) which follow the BASD Dress code. Girls, please keep in mind the length of your skirt or dress. You will be sitting on stage.
Key Items and Dates to Remember.....

*As soon as possible: Obtain your child’s instrument, music stand and accessories!

*Lessons begin on October 6th or 9th

*Band begins on October 9th

*Concert Dates: December 7th & May 9th

Berwick Area High School- 6:40 pm arrival, 7:00 pm performance

Mark your calendars with these very important dates tonight 😊
Example of
Weekly Practice Reflection Log
The log will be checked at instrumental lessons at each lesson. It is to be filled out by students.

STUDENT NAME: __________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Songs from Lesson Book</th>
<th>Band Music</th>
<th>Time Spent Practicing</th>
<th>How did you do?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 9th</td>
<td>5, 6</td>
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<td>10 min</td>
<td>☑️ ☑️ ☑️</td>
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<tr>
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<td>15 min</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Goal is to play through selected music while going back to fix any mistakes as you practice.

PARENT SIGNATURE: __________________________

DATE: ______________________________

Your child will receive these logs at their first lesson.

Each time a log is completely filled out students will receive a star on the chart. When three stars are collected on the chart students can pick out a reward prize.
QUESTIONS????

If you have questions for Mrs. Ziegler and do not have time to wait this evening, please jot down your questions, rip of this page and hand it in before you leave. We will get back to you with answers ASAP 😊

Student Name__________________________________

Your Name _______________________________________

Email ___________________________________________

Phone # _________________________________________

Question:
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