

# Lakewood Elementary 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Band

Spencer Merryfield, Band Director

913-239-3815 (office)

[smerryfield02@bluevalleyk12.org](mailto:smerryfield02@bluevalleyk12.org)

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Class Days and Times

Students who choose to participate in the Band Program will meet during the school day at Lakewood from 11:15 – 11:45 a.m. Students meet twice a week in small classes based on the instrument they play.

- Woodwinds: Students that play flute or clarinet meet on Mondays and Wednesdays.
- Brass: Students that play trumpet, trombone, or baritone meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- There will be times when the entire band meets at once during the school day at Lakewood. You will be notified of these dates later in the school year.

## Concerts/Events

We will have concert performances on the following dates:

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	PERFORMANCE
Tuesday, October 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2017	7:00 PM	BV West PAC	BVW Fall Band Concert (OPTIONAL)
Tuesday, November 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2017	6:30 PM	Lakewood Middle School Gym	Band Concert
Thursday, March 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2017	7:00 PM	BV West High School Gym	West Area Band Festival
Tuesday, April 24 <sup>th</sup> 2017	6:30 PM	Lakewood Elementary/Middle	LKE Band and Strings Concert
TBA	Morning	Lakewood Elementary	School Assembly Concert

Students are to wear all black for concerts. No ties please. Students are also to follow school dress code for concerts.

## What instruments are available in band?

The following instruments are available for 5<sup>th</sup> grade band:

- Flute
- Clarinet
- Trombone
- Trumpet
- Baritone

While several other instruments are used in middle and high school level ensembles, students begin on one of these instruments for fifth grade. Students will be given options for switching to different instruments in the future. If a student has already been taking private lessons for an extended time, please contact me.

It is very important to understand that a successful band is a “balanced band” - one in which correct proportions of each instrument are present. In other words, a band made up of only flutes, and clarinets will not be very successful or enjoyable for the listener! When there are too many on

one particular instrument, the balance of the band suffers and the drop-out rate increases as the students reach the upper grades. Therefore, we attempt to not only put your child on the best instrument for them, but one they can be successful at and that will be a large part of the program.

## **What are my child's responsibilities in band?**

Music (band, choir, and orchestra) is a curricular activity in the Blue Valley School District. Because of this, your child will be given a report card to show their progress in band. The purpose of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade beginning band is to prepare students for middle school band by learning fundamentals of playing a band instrument, building proper practice habits, and knowing how to function as a member of a musical group. Their primary responsibilities include attendance to all rehearsals and performances, bringing all materials to class, and practicing outside of class time.

## **What are my responsibilities as a parent?**

When your child chooses to begin band instruction, he or she chooses to make band a part of the school curriculum. Because success in instrumental music is so directly tied to class attendance and preparation, it is important that students and parents realize from the beginning that the choice to participate in band is a commitment.

You, as a parent, should also feel some responsibility for their student's choice to enroll in instrumental music. Without support and encouragement from you, students can easily fail. As a parent, you are a vital part of the "success equation" - your attitude toward your child's participation may someday decide his or her success or failure. This statement is not only true for participation in band, but for countless other activities. Thank you in advance for your support and encouragement at home.

## **Where can my child get an instrument?**

Blue Valley Public Schools is very fortunate to have such high quality music dealers provided for you in the Blue Valley School District. These stores adhere to our district wide policy of providing instruments approved by the Blue Valley School District. It is recommended that you make your purchase through one of these stores, because they are well aware of our requirements for students and should treat you fairly. Each store has a variety of purchase, rental, and rent-to-own programs.

*PLEASE NOTE: All instruments available through the Blue Valley vendors have been approved by the Blue Valley School District. Sometimes families have access to an instrument that has been previously used, and may not be on this Approved List. If you would like your students to use an instrument other than one on this list, please contact me before finalizing any plans. When purchasing a new or used instrument elsewhere (i.e. ebay or similar venue), you are strongly encouraged and cautioned to choose one from the approved school instrument rental list used by any Blue Valley Instrument Dealer. Due to the extreme poor quality of the instrument - YOU SHOULD NOT PURCHASE AN INSTRUMENT FROM A WAREHOUSE CLUB/STORE. Please contact me for further details regarding this list or any questions you may have about the quality of the instrument in question.*