

Salem Schools  
Beginning  
Band

The  
Care and Feeding  
Of your  
New Beginning  
Band student

Welcome:

Thanks to both you and your child for choosing a program that can provide your student with years of excitement, learning, and even the potential for a paid college education. This document is provided to answer questions that may arise from time to time and to assist both you and your young musician in making the most out of this beginning band course.

Course Design:

- The Salem beginning band meets three times per week for approximately 35 minutes per session.
- Students are placed in groups (A, B or C) with like instruments. These groups meet Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday for class instruction. The group's schedule changes on a three week rotational basis.
- Students meet every Thursday and Friday for band instruction.
- Grades are provided as measuring tool for student progress. At this point we are unable to include band grades on the Edline system. Grades will be provided to students approximately each two weeks. Band grades do not affect student GPA or appear on student transcripts.
- Students are expected to practice a **minimum of 100 minutes per week and a minimum of five (5) days per week**. The musician is encouraged to practice over this amount. **Completed practice sheets that include daily practice totals, total weekly minutes, and a parent signature are due each Friday.**
- Students are required to attend scheduled performances. At least one (1) month notice will be given for any required performance.
- Students will be provided with a monthly beginning band calendar (see page \_\_\_) that provides their rotation schedule along with any other important band and school events.

The Salem beginning band student needs:

- An instrument in good working order.
- The necessary accessories for his or her instrument. These may include lubricants, cleaning supplies, etc. Clarinet and saxophone students need to have at least three (3) new reeds at all times. It is best if the student purchases these in the box as it saves money and ensures that the student always has a good supply of reeds. Boxes of reeds and other accessories can be ordered through the Salem band program.
- Essential Elements 2000 Method Book for the student's instrument.
- Three (3) binder that includes: Notebook Paper, Pencils, Clear Protective Sheets (8-10). It is preferred that the student be able to keep his or her method book in this notebook. This binder allows the student to have all necessary materials at each rehearsal.
- A quiet, well-lighted area that the student can practice.

Other Tips:

- The biggest problem that we faced in the first year of this new schedule was students not having instrument and/or materials on the days that the student had band. Any system that you could develop with your child to make sure that he or she has his or her instrument and materials consistently would be greatly appreciated.
- Set a regularly scheduled time to practice.
- Try to practice no more than 30 minutes in any one session.
- Encourage your child and stay positive. The all-state students we have sounded just like your student when they started.

Thanks for your commitment to the instrumental music education of your child.



