

Harrison Elementary

Instrumental Music Program

5304 Hamilton Street
Omaha, Nebraska
68132-1300
School: (402) 554-8535
Cell: (402) 659-2618
Email: thomas.cosby@ops.org

Overview of Band Lessons

Description of Beginning Band Lessons: The basic principle for beginning band is to familiarize your child with the fundamental principles of music and the daily routine used in all band lessons throughout the school district. We try to focus on making sure rules and procedures are followed and become second nature. We also spend a great deal of time emphasizing the importance of producing a quality sound on all instruments, as well as understanding basic music notation. On top of the large group teaching format, small group and/or individualized instruction will be used when appropriate. Extra help is always available from the band teacher but is dependent upon your child maintaining good grades in the regular classroom- please encourage your child to do his/her best in their regular schoolwork.

Description of 2nd Year Advanced Band Lessons: The 2nd year band experience is meant to further develop the skills and habits that were introduced during the beginning band year. During the 2nd year of band instruction we enforce the daily routine of rehearsing together in band class as well as practicing individually at home to develop more endurance and consistency in technique and sound production. During the 3rd & 4th quarters, 2nd year band students will be exposed to more advanced musical concepts such as blending of tone, dynamic contrasts, and tuning. It is the hope of the OPS instrumental music staff that the 2nd year band experience will help prepare band students for more serious musical studies in middle school and beyond.

Your Child's Responsibilities:

Beginning Band

- Bring all materials (including instrument, book and reeds) to lessons every day.
- Have a positive attitude in class without interrupting other student's learning.
- Practice at least 15-20 minutes per day at home at least five days per week.
- Maintain your instrument in good working condition (this includes making sure that good reeds are available, valves are oiled properly and instruments are not dented or scratched).
- Perform to the best of your ability in all concerts and performances throughout the school year.

2nd Year Advanced Band

- Bring all materials (including instrument, book and reeds) to lessons every day.
- Have a positive attitude in class without interrupting other student's learning.
- Practice at least 20-25 minutes per day at home at least five days per week.
- Maintain your instrument in good working condition (this includes making sure that good reeds are available, valves are oiled properly and instruments are not dented or scratched).
- Perform to the best of your ability in all concerts and performances throughout the school year.
- Set a good example for less experienced beginning band students at all times.

School Owned Instruments: The Omaha Public Schools does have some instruments to loan to students for use during the school year. (Please note that these instruments MUST be returned at the conclusion of the school year in the same condition they were in at the beginning of the year.) However, effort should be made by parents/guardians to obtain an instrument for students to play in band lessons. It is important to understand that supplies of school owned instruments are very, very limited. Every attempt will be made to provide a musical instrument to students whose families cannot afford to rent or purchase one themselves, but there are only so many instruments to go around and the supply of school owned instruments is typically used up very, very quickly. If you have questions about borrowing a school owned instruments, please communicate with Mr. Cosby as soon as possible...

New Method Books for 2016-2017: The Omaha Public Schools has adopted a new method book for all instrumental music students (4th – 12th grade) in the district. It is called *Sound Innovations*- all elementary band students will need book 1 (white with blue writing on the cover). *Sound Innovations* can be purchased at any store that rents or sells musical instruments. There is a limited supply of *Sound Innovations* method books that are owned by the school. These are available to check out for student use but must be returned in the same condition at the end of the school year. Also, students may NOT write in school-owned method books. If you have questions about borrowing a school-owned method book, please communicate with Mr. Cosby as soon as possible...