



# Primary School Band Handbook



*“Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.”*

- Red Auerbach



*A few words from your band teacher, Mr. Frayer...*

Welcome back to school, WIS students and parents! I am so excited to begin this school year with you. As we get started with our band program this year, I am preparing some exciting lessons and band literature.

Students, I hope that you are preparing to enjoy another year (or your first year) in band. Your commitment to excellence is what makes our program successful. Remember, the better you are at your instrument, the more fun you'll have making music!

Parents, I hope that you are preparing to be involved in this part of your child's education. Ask your child to play for you every once in a while! When I feel the students are ready, both Tuesday and Thursday classes will be open for all band students. All instruments will be able to attend both sessions or any combination their schedule allows on Tuesdays and Thursday. This option is made about half way through the year and is a way for students to practice as a full band with the concert music!

Lastly, make sure that your child practices at least two hours per week. You are an important factor in your child's musical success. It takes all of us working together to build an outstanding program. I look forward to doing that again this year! We want your child to be successful in music and in life, and if there is anything I can do to help you, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can call at 202.243.1842 or email me at [joshua.fraye@wis.edu](mailto:joshua.fraye@wis.edu).

Musically Yours,

Joshua Frayer  
Grades 4-12 Instrumental Teacher  
Washington International School

## ***Washington International School Band Beliefs***

**We, the students and teachers of the Washington International School Band Program, agree that, in order to maintain an effective, creative, and positive environment, we will support and abide by the following principles:**

- 1) We will always be our best musicians.**
- 2) We will be respectful and quiet when someone else is talking or playing.**
- 3) We will not talk when a conductor is on the podium.**
- 4) When a student or teacher makes a mistake, we will remember that we make mistakes too.**
- 5) We will always cooperate with one another because we are a team.**
- 6) We will always show respect for ourselves, each other, and all property in the room.**

### **Rules and guidelines to help you become the best musician (Part 1):**

#### Prior to class or rehearsal

- Promptly set up with everything needed at start of class or rehearsal:
  1. Instrument together
  2. Sitting in proper section chair
  3. Having music stand with all music and pencil
  4. Having warmed up (tuned up), ready to begin
- Be prepared for every class and rehearsal with instrument in good playing condition and any necessary accessories (extra reeds, valve oil, rosin, etc.).
- Be prepared by having all music, books, handouts in a folder or binder and a pencil with an eraser.
- Percussion, please set up before you come into class (either Bells or Snare drum, depending on what the director says).
- Have all accessories such as oil, cleaning equipment, neck strap, or any other instrument necessity.
- If an instrument does not play/work, DO NOT try to fix it yourself; ask me!
- There will always be an assignment. Students are expected and required to practice during the week and be able to play what is assigned for the next class.
- Be prepared to be listened to individually for the assignment at any class.
- ID tag needs to be on the outside of and inside instrument cases.
- DO NOT open any instrument case or take out any instrument that does not belong to you.
- Students are required to perform in the Spring Concert with the Choirs at the end of the year.

## Rules and guidelines to help you become the best musician (Part 2):

### When the conductor is at the front of the class

- No more talking or playing unless directed. We only have about 30 min a week! The rest is up to you to practice and be ready for next class.
- If you have a question, comment, or concern, raise your hand.
- If the conductor is working with an individual or small group only, be quiet and be ready to come to immediate attention and silence when conductor is in the front of class.
  - \*\*Some things you could do while you are waiting:
    1. Writing in the notes or fingerings.
    2. Practice the fingerings without making sounds.
- When the conductor's arms go up for a count off or lead in, all eyes at conductor and all instruments go immediately up into playing position.

***Please label your cases with your name and address to prevent lost or mixed up instruments!***

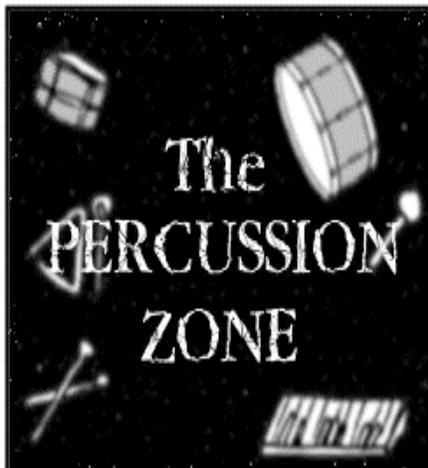
***Food, Drink, and Gum are NOT allowed in the band room.  
The only exception is bottled water.***

**After the last lesson of the day, students are required to clean up and put stands and instruments away.**

TALES FROM BAND CAMP

[HTTP://WWW.TALESFROMBANDCAMP.COM](http://www.talesfrombandcamp.com)

You're travelling through another dimension, a dimension not only of sight and sound but of mind; a journey into a wondrous land whose boundaries are that of imagination. That's the signpost up ahead--your next stop...



## Materials Needed

1. **Instrument in good working order.** Instrument cases should be clearly labeled to prevent mix-ups and lost instruments.
2. **Book:** WIS will provide the Accent on Achievement Band Method for your instrument. **You do not have to purchase this.** Students will begin the year with the books they used last year and will be provided with the new book when it is time to switch.
3. **PENCIL: EVERY DAY!**
4. **Accessories:**
  - **Trumpet, Baritone,& Tuba\***– valve oil, slide grease, valve brush, cleaning snake, mouthpiece brush
  - **Trombone\*** – slide cream, small spray bottle, slide grease, cleaning snake, mouthpiece brush
  - **Flutes** – cloth swab, tuning rod
  - **Clarinets\*** – 4 good reeds every day with sturdy reed holder (**Reeds should be size 2 or 2 ½ Rico Royal**), cloth swab (the cotton handkerchief type)
  - **Saxophones** – 4 good reeds every day with sturdy reed holder (**Reeds should be size 2 or 2 ½ Rico Royal**), cloth swab, neck strap, neck plug
  - **Double reeds** – 2 good medium soft reeds every day, cloth swab, reed case, water holder (film case or prescription bottle)
  - **Percussion** – Snare drum and bell kit, 5A sticks, stick bag, bells mallets ,and equipment that students will buy as they progress

## Instrument care and cleanliness

### General Care

- **Storing Your Instrument**

If the instrument is not in use, keep it closed in its case to protect it from damage and to keep the finish intact. Do not store music or anything else in the case unless there is a separate compartment specifically designed for these accessories, as there is a risk of bending the delicate keys or valves when the case is being closed. Never leave your instrument out of its case when not being played. Exposure to any source of heat (sunlight, attics, hot cars, radiators, windows or anywhere in direct sunlight) can cause extreme heat or UV damage.
- **Remove Fingerprints**

Lacquered (brass) instruments require the use of a soft cotton cloth to wipe away fingerprints and dirt from the body of the instrument. Always remember to spray the cloth; do not spray cleaners directly on the instrument. For most lacquered brass instruments, Windex serves as an excellent cleaner. Silver plated instruments may also be wiped down as described above. Silver polish cloths can be used sparingly but are still abrasive. Do not use Brasso or Silver polish as these are very abrasive and will scratch

silver and deteriorate/wear silver and gold plating off the instrument prematurely. It is recommended that you wipe off all fingerprints and perspiration each time you finish playing the instrument. Cleanliness is the key to keeping the finish of your instrument intact and keeping it looking its best.

### General Brass Instrument Care

- **Mouthpiece**  
Regularly clean your mouthpiece with dishwashing soap, warm water, and a mouthpiece brush, as dirt and deposits tend to collect there. Eating and drinking (especially sweet and sugary drinks) should be avoided immediately before playing, as these particles and residue will collect inside the instrument. Human saliva will also cause corrosion inside the instrument. Accumulation of dirt and deposits in the mouthpiece back bore will affect the response and tone quality of the instrument. Never force the mouthpiece into the instrument - just a gentle twist is all that is required when inserting. If it does become jammed or stuck, don't try to remove it yourself. I have a specialized tool that will remove it without any damage.
- **Tuning Slides**  
Tuning slides need to be kept clean and lubricated. If they become difficult to move, remove them, clean them with a soft cloth, and then apply new tuning slide grease sparingly. If they are stuck or will not move smoothly, please let me know or take it to your rental music store.
- **Piston Valves**  
Piston/rotary valves are delicate. Any dirt or foreign body that finds its way between the valve and valve casing has the potential to make the valve action sluggish or can stop the valve function altogether. Lubrication of the valves is recommended before EVERY use.

### General Woodwind Instrument Care

- **Assembly**  
Caution needs to be considered when assembling a woodwind instrument. The instrument needs to be held or gripped where there are few or no keys as these "bridge keys" are very delicate. Most woodwind instruments have these bridge or "correspondence" keys which link the instrument keying mechanisms and can be easily bent while assembling. The same applies especially to the saxophone octave key that connects the main body with the neck section.
- **Cork Joints**  
Cork joints need a regular application of cork grease. Vaseline will work in a pinch; however, quality cork grease is recommended. A new cork joint will require greasing for the first few uses - thereafter at least twice a week or as needed or more if the joints seem tight or the instrument is difficult to assemble.
- **Drying**  
After every playing session, the inside of the instrument needs to be dried and cleaned on the inside as well. This is accomplished by using a pull-through (a cloth attached to a small weight by a cord) often referred to as "a swab." The process of swabbing out the internal bore of the instrument will greatly extend the life of the pads, and keep wood instruments from developing body cracks. If your wood instrument develops a crack in the joint or bore

this may require an expensive repair. Prevent this by cleaning and oiling the bore of your wooden instrument.

### **Private Lessons**

Private lessons are a great way to enrich a student’s band experience. They are for everyone – not just for students who are struggling or for students who wish to excel. The entire band benefits when students take one-on-one private lessons. We highly encourage them but they are not required. If you’re interested in private lessons please email me and I can help point you in the right direction!

### **Instrument Rental Information**

<b><u>Middle C Music</u></b> 4530 Wisconsin Ave Nw Washington, DC 20016	<a href="http://www.middlecmusic.com">http://www.middlecmusic.com</a> 202.244.7326
<b><u>Chuck Levin’s Washington Music Center</u></b> 11151 Veirs Mill Road Wheaton, MD 20902	<a href="http://www.chucklevins.com/">www.chucklevins.com/</a> 301.946.8808
<b><u>Music &amp; Arts - White Oak Express Rental Center</u></b> White Oak Shopping Center 11253 New Hampshire Avenue Silver Spring, MD 20904	301.312.4708
<b><u>Music &amp; Arts – Rockville</u></b> Federal Plaza 12274 Rockville Pike, Ste K Rockville, MD 20852	<a href="https://stores.musicarts.com/rockville">https://stores.musicarts.com/rockville</a> 301.881.6440
<b><u>House Of Musical Traditions</u></b> 7010 Westmoreland Avenue Takoma Park, MD 20912	<a href="http://www.hmtrad.com/">http://www.hmtrad.com/</a> 301.270.9090
<b><u>Music and Arts</u></b> (Search for a store near you!)	<a href="https://stores.musicarts.com/">https://stores.musicarts.com/</a>

#### **Information you might need when renting an instrument:**

- Valid form of Identification (Driver's license, state issued ID, Passport).
- Valid major credit card (for reference only, you may pay by cash, check, or credit card)
- Name and school of the student
- Home address of the parent(s)
- Employer's name and address of the parent(s)
- Home and work phone numbers of the parent(s)
- Name and Phone number of a personal reference for someone who lives at a different address than the renter (You can use my name: Joshua Frayer / 202.243.1842)

## **Recommended Instrument Brands (suggested, not required)**

### **Flute**

Gemeinhardt (e.g. 52SP, 2SP), Armstrong (e.g. 104), Yamaha (e.g. YFL221)  
Accessories: swab, cleaning rod, polishing cloth (opt.)

### **Oboe**

Yamaha (e.g. YOB241), Selmer (e.g. 1492B)  
Accessories: 2-part silk swab, cork grease, Jones med. soft reed(s)

### **Clarinet**

Leblanc (e.g. 7214, 7212PC), Buffet (e.g. B12, E-11), Selmer (e.g. CL301, CL201), Yamaha (e.g. YCL450N for wood clarinets)  
Accessories: Hite Premier mouthpiece, swab, cork grease, Vandoren "2 1/2" clarinet reeds (Box of 10)

### **Saxophone**

Selmer (e.g. AS300), Yamaha (e.g. YAS23A, YAS23)  
Accessories: swab, cork grease, Rico Royal or Vandoren "2" alto sax reeds (Box of 10)

### **Trumpet**

Holton Selmer/Bach (e.g. TR300H), Yamaha (e.g. 2335A)  
Accessories: Bach 7C mouthpiece, slide grease, valve oil, mouthpiece brush, polishing cloth & cleaning snake (opt.)

### **French Horn**

Yamaha (e.g. YFR314, YHR314 II), Holton (e.g. H602), Bach (e.g. 1101), Conn (e.g. 14D)  
Accessories: Bach 7S, Schilke 30, or standard 11 mouth- piece, slide grease, rotary valve oil, polishing cloth (opt.)

### **Trombone**

Bach (e.g. TB300), Conn (e.g. 22H), Yamaha (e.g. YSL354)  
Accessories: Bach 6 1/2 AL mouthpiece, slide grease, slide cream, mouthpiece brush, polishing cloth (opt.)

### **Baritone Horn**

Yamaha (YEP201), Bach (B1104)  
Accessories: Bach 6 1/2 AL mouthpiece, slide grease, slide cream, mouthpiece brush, polishing cloth (opt.)

### **Tuba**

Bach, Yamaha  
Accessories: slide grease, valve oil, mouthpiece brush, polishing cloth

### **Percussion**

Pearl PL900C, Vic Firth, or Yamaha Snare & Bell Kit