



# Grade School Band Program Handbook

St. Croix Lutheran is pleased to provide a band program for several grade schools and is eager to add more. The goal is to provide a well-rounded and full instrumental music program that leads students to use their God-given musical talents to the fullest while having an educational and enjoyable experience. By the end of eighth grade, students should be well prepared to use their talents in a high school band at SCL or any other high school.

## **Participating Schools:**

Good Shepherd, Burnsville  
Crown of Life, West St. Paul  
St. John's, Red Wing





## Overview

BAND! I've always felt that band should be written in capital letters and have an exclamation mark behind it (BAND!). Both as a student and educator, no activity in my experience has provided more learning, wonderful relationships, and enjoyment than BAND! Among many other things, BAND! is a special way for God's children to use the gifts He has provided to *Praise the Lord*. BAND! is incredibly educational, a great social experience, and, with plenty of practice and good instruction, extremely rewarding. *Director John Fenske*

*Praise the Lord.  
Praise God in his sanctuary;  
Praise him in his mighty heavens.  
Praise him for his acts of power;  
Praise him for his surpassing greatness.  
Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,  
Praise him with the harp and lyre,  
Praise him with tambourine and dancing,  
Praise him with strings and flute,  
Praise him with resounding cymbals.  
Let everything that has breath  
Praise the Lord!  
Psalm 150*

## Lessons

The core of the program is lessons that are scheduled with the assistance of the principal during the school day. All students receive either a 15-minute private lesson or small group lessons depending on ability level and age. Some schools have larger group lessons for advanced students and, if enrollment warrants, a separate beginner band. These rehearsals are also conducted during the school day. Students are provided with music and folders.

## Concerts

All the 6th-8th grade band students will combine for *two major concerts*, **Thursday, December 12, 2019**, 6:30 p.m. in the SCL chapel and **Thursday, May 7, 2020**, 7:00 p.m. in the SCL commons. These concerts provide an opportunity for students to perform with a full ensemble. To prepare for the concerts, at least three rehearsals will be scheduled (TBA) during the school day at SCL.

Another joint opportunity is the *Winter Band Concert* on **Sunday, March 8, 2020** which all the students within our association will be invited to participate. Rehearsals for this concert will be conducted during the school day at SCL. Rehearsals will take place at SCL **Thursday, February 20, 27, and March 5** from 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Students receiving instruction from SCL will also be asked to participate in the *Twin Cities Fine Arts Festival*, a solo and ensemble competition, at St. Croix Lutheran on **Saturday, April 18, 2020**. Learn more at [StCroixLutheran.org/TCFAF](http://StCroixLutheran.org/TCFAF)

## Books and Concert Music

Lesson books are provided by the teacher and may be kept by the student. The lesson book used for beginners is *Traditions of Excellence Book 1*. As students advance, they will be given the next books in the series or other methods specific to their instrument

Concerts music will be provided by the teacher but must be returned when the student is finished or at the end of the year. **The student is responsible for replacing any lost books or music.**

A student may purchase other books of personal interest (pop songs, Disney books, etc.) and is encouraged to bring the books to the lessons.

# Instruments & Accessories

Band students must provide their own instruments and supplies. Groth Music in Bloomington is the recommended music store for instrument rental/purchase. There are other excellent music stores in the metropolitan area, including Schmitt Music and Ekroth Music, and parents may choose to use them. We have found Groth to be dependable, reliable, and fair. Some of the more expensive instruments, e.g., tuba, baritone saxophone, etc., may be provided by the school as the student advances.

**PLEASE DO NOT PURCHASE INSTRUMENTS ONLINE WITHOUT CONSULTING MR. FENSKE!** Many of the “cheaper instruments” found online are not of good quality and make it very difficult or impossible for the student to learn properly. There are good brands to look for when purchasing online, but it is strongly recommended to purchase or rent from a local music store.

Yamaha band instruments are a preferred brand of instrument to rent or purchase and maintains the most consistency among student-level instruments. If you have a used instrument you would like the student to use, please check with Mr. Fenske to see if the instrument is of good quality. You may also check with one of the listed music stores to see if any maintenance or cleaning should be done to instrument.

Music accessories and cleaning supplies are important to any instrument. It is important to have all the necessary accessories and cleaning supplies at the first lesson. For proper playing position it is highly recommended to have a music stand at home for practice.



# First-Year Student Supplies Needed:

Instrument	Brand Preference	Supplies
Flute	Yamaha, Jupiter	Swab, cleaning rod
Clarinet	Yamaha, Vito, Selmer	Reeds, swab, mouthpiece brush, cork grease, Reed Gard
Saxophone	Yamaha, Vito, Selmer, Cannonball	Reeds, swab, mouthpiece brush, cork grease, Reed Gard
Trumpet	Yamaha, Jupiter, (no Getzen student trumpets)	Valve oil, slide crease, mouthpiece brush, snake
Trombone	Yamaha, Jupiter	Slide oil, mouthpiece brush, slide grease
Baritone	Yamaha, Jupiter	Valve oil, mouthpiece brush, snake, slide grease
French Horn(single)	Holton, Yamaha	Mouthpiece Brush, rotor oil, slide grease
Oboe	Yamaha, Selmer	Medium-soft reeds (Jones, Lescher Emerald)
Percussion: Bell kit	Ludwig, Yamaha, Vic Firth	Drum sticks, mallets, practice pad (may come with bell kit)

## Fees and Payment

The cost of the program is **\$500 for the year** or \$250 for a semester. The first semester payment is due October 31, and the second payment is due January 31. You can pay online at [StCroixLutheran.org/ESBand](http://StCroixLutheran.org/ESBand) or make a check out to "St. Croix Lutheran" and bring it to the main office, Mr. Fenske, or Mr. Zolldan. The fee does not cover the entire cost of the program, but SCL provides a substantial subsidy. The fee is for the entire program, not just for lessons.

# Guarantee & Make-Up Lessons

Mr. Fenske and Mr. Zolldan guarantee to provide 26 lessons per school year at the student's grade school. Mr. Fenske and Mr. Zolldan may designate weeks where lessons will not be given. This provides flexibility if Mr. Fenske or Mr. Zolldan is sick or if there is a snow day.

Students who are sick or forget their instrument will be charged a lesson if Mr. Fenske or Mr. Zolldan is there to give the lesson. Make-up lessons may be scheduled if the teacher is available. Please contact your lesson teacher to schedule make-up lessons.

## Expectations

### Fundamentals.

Posture, hand position, breathing/sticking, rhythm, counting, and the like are essential for student progress and enjoyment. Students are expected to take time to thoroughly practice and master fundamentals.

### Practice, practice, practice!!!

Students thrive when making progress and doing well. A lack of practice results in little progress which results in a lack of learning, satisfaction, and enjoyment. *The minimum expectation is 15 minutes a day for five days a week for beginners, 100+ minutes a week for advanced players.* In most cases, a new song or etude needs to be practiced at least 15-20 times before it is mastered.

### Care of instruments.

Careless handling of an instrument can cause serious and expensive repairs. A well-maintained and clean instrument performs well and retains value.

### Remember Band Day!

During their busy week, it happens that students can forget their instrument and/or music on band day. Parents are asked to help with this.

### Have Fun!

It is the goal of Mr. Fenske to make band an enjoyable experience for everyone involved and is committed to succeeding in that goal!

# Thank You

Thank you to the parents for your support of this program and all you do to make music possible in the schools. Thank you to all principals and classroom teachers. Band can create disruption to classroom schedules. The patience and cooperation of faculties and principals is fantastic and is deeply appreciated! Without this spirit of cooperation, the program could not function.

## About the Directors

**Mr. John Fenske** serves as the middle school and high school band director and dorm supervisor at St. Croix Lutheran. He is a graduate of Wisconsin Lutheran College (Milwaukee Wisconsin) with an Instrumental Music Education degree and has had experience at all levels throughout his college experience. In 2019, he completed his first year of his Masters of Instrumental Music Education from the American Band College through Central Washington University. His primary instrument is trumpet, but he loves teaching all the instruments. This is his seventh year at SCL, and he enjoys being a part of the SCL ministry and working with all the area grade schools.



**Mr. Roger Zoldan** is a retired music teacher who taught beginning band and classroom music in the Somerset, Wisconsin public schools. His education includes a bachelor's degree from Southwest State University in Marshall, Minnesota, and a Master of Education degree from St. Mary's University of Minnesota. The saxophone is his primary instrument, but he is comfortable playing most woodwind and brass instruments. Since his retirement he has continued to teach as a substitute in music and many other subjects. He is a member of Salem Lutheran Church in Stillwater, Minnesota, and is their choir director.



# Dates to Remember

**Thursday, December 12, 7:00 p.m.**

Christmas Concert, SCL Chapel  
(6th-8th grade only)

**Sunday, March 8, 2:00 p.m.**

Winter Band Concert, SCL gym  
(all band students)

*Rehearsals are Thursday, Feb 20, 27, and Mar 5  
from 12:30-1:30 p.m. at SCL*

**Saturday, April 18**

Twin Cities Fine Arts Festival, SCL  
(all band students encouraged to participate)

**Thursday, May 7, 6:30 p.m.**

Spring Concert, SCL Commons  
(6th-8th grade only)

# Contact Information

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[www.grothmusic.com](http://www.grothmusic.com)

*May the Lord richly bless our BAND!*



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[StCroixLutheran.org/GSband](http://StCroixLutheran.org/GSband)