



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. Although this instrumental program has been running for many years, this year the class will start out virtually. As we get started with our band program this year, I am preparing some exciting lessons and band literature for beginners and for students who have at least one year of experience.

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 at WIS 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 to have them show off what they have learned. Make sure that your child practices at least two hours per week and turns in practice logs once a cycle. 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 at Joshua.Frayer@wis.edu.

Musically Yours,

Joshua Frayer
Grades 4-12 Instrumental Teacher
Washington International School

[CLICK HERE](#) to sign up

Primary School After School Grades 4 & 5 Beginning Band

General Aim

The aim of instrumental music is to instill in each student an understanding and appreciation of music that will enable him or her to be a lifelong participant in music. The course is to provide each student an opportunity at an early age to express themselves musically on a chosen instrument for serious music study and recreational playing, developing music reading and playing skills and providing a variety of instrumental ensemble experiences.

Course Content

- Learn and apply proper playing techniques on chosen instrument
- Read and play a variety of music in a progression demanding more complex musical concepts, including developing a wider playing range, in different key signatures, more complex rhythmic patterns and meters, form, dynamics, stylistic ornaments and interpretation
- Play major, minor, melodic, harmonic, chromatic scales and arpeggios
- Read and play independent parts as part of an ensemble
- Sight reading
- Identify composers and their historical era
- Identify historical music eras and various styles
- Prepare for a Spring Concert "TBA" (Virtually or In Person)
- Playing assignments for each class

Assessments

- Prepared for (virtual) classes [instrument, music, pencil]
- Weekly progress reports for each student (informal)
- Assignments (Tradition of Excellence Book)
- Class participation and effort
- Performance exams (Tradition of Excellence Book)
- Practice Logs (120 minutes for each log)

Resources:

- Methods book (Tradition of Excellence Book)
- Standard band arrangements (Concert Music)
- OnCampus
- Band Handbook

More About the PS Instrumental Band Class

In this class, students have a chance to choose their first instrument if they have not started an instrument in Grades 4 or 5. This class uses a methods book in order to learn musical skills on their instrument and in music. Practicing outside of class is essential to be successful. Since we are starting virtually, students will be using an app to help learn their chosen instrument.

The **percussion and saxophone** sections have a limited number of spots available in this class. Please email Mr. Frayer about instrument section availability for these instruments:

Joshua.Frayer@wis.edu.

Students who were in band last year in Grade 4 will be placed in the Advanced ensemble (See schedule below). When Primary School students graduate to their Middle School years, they will be required to choose instrumental music or vocal music. This Primary School after school band program is offered to Grades 4 & 5 students who are interested in learning an instrument early!

Schedule

- Tuesdays, 3:40-4:15 PM: Beginning Woodwinds (Flute, Alto Saxophone, Clarinet)
- Thursdays, 3:40-4:00 PM: Beginning Brass/Percussion (Trumpet, Trombone, Percussion)
- Thursdays, 4:00-4:30 PM: Advanced PS Band Students (Experienced Students)

Instrumental Music: Conduct and Rules for How to Succeed

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 performing.
- 3) We will not talk when a conductor is on the podium.
- 4) When another 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 including your own instrument.

Prior to virtual instrumental classes, all students should:

- Be promptly set up with everything needed at start of virtual class:
 1. Instrument together
 2. Sitting properly
 3. Having music stand with methods book, any sheet music, and pencil
- Be prepared for every class and rehearsal with instrument in good playing condition and any necessary accessories such as extra reeds, valve oil, rosin, etc.
- Have all music, books, handouts in a folder or binder and a pencil with an eraser.
- Have all accessories such as oil, cleaning equipment, neck strap, or any other instrument necessities.
- Be prepared to be listened to individually during virtual classes.

Other important information:

- If an instrument does not play/work, DO NOT try to fix it yourself; ask Mr. Frayer during class or send him an email.
- 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.

Rubrics and Informal Assessment

Winds/Strings Rubric CATEGORY	6-7 (Excellent)	4-5 (Standard)	2-3 (Fair)	0-1 (Poor)
Tone Quality	Performs with a full, mature sound.	Performs with a characteristic tone quality.	Approaches a characteristic tone quality.	Performs with an uncharacteristic tone quality
Rhythm	Performs all rhythms as written.	Performs with very few rhythmic mistakes.	Performs with several rhythmic mistakes.	Performs with many incorrect rhythms.
Intonation/Pitch	Performs all notes in tune.	Performs most notes in tune.	Performs some notes in tune.	Performs consistently out of tune.
Practice	Student's performance indicates regular and sustained practice outside of class, with great attention to areas of difficulty.	Student's performance indicates regular practice outside of class with some attention to areas of difficulty.	Student's performance indicates some practice outside of class, but with little attention to areas of difficulty.	Student's performance indicates there is very little practice outside of class.
Dynamics	Dynamic levels are obvious, consistent, and an accurate interpretation of the style of music being played.	Dynamic levels are typically accurate and consistent.	Dynamic levels fluctuate but can be discerned.	Attention to dynamic levels is not obvious.
Phrasing	Consistently performs phrases with proper dynamics and breath control.	Performs most phrases with proper dynamics and breath control.	Performs phrases with inconsistent dynamics and breath control.	Performs phrases with little evidence of dynamics or breath control.
Note Accuracy	Notes are consistently accurate.	An occasional inaccurate note is played, but does not detract from overall performance.	A few inaccurate notes are played, detracting somewhat from the overall performance.	Wrong notes consistently detract from the performance.
Articulation	Performs all articulation	Performs most articulation	Performs some articulation	Not accurately performing articulation markings.

	markings accurately.	markings accurately.	markings accurately.	
Style Markings	All style marking were played well and accurately. Made music more than notes and rhythm and played with creative nuance.	Most style markings were played well and accurately. May have missed one or two, but did not distract from overall style.	Failed to play several style markings accurately. Style of piece was barely recognizable.	Little or no attention was given to style markings. Style of piece was not recognizable.
Playing Position	Performs with excellent head, body, hand, and feet placement.	Performs with acceptable head, body, hand, and feet placement.	Performs with inconsistent head, body, hand, and feet placement.	Performs with incorrect head, body, hand, and feet placement.
Percussion Rubric CATEGORY	6-7 (Excellent)	4-5 (Standard)	2-3 (Fair)	0-1 (Poor)
Rhythm	The beat is secure and the rhythms are accurate for the style of music being played.	The beat is secure and the rhythms are mostly accurate. There are a few duration errors, but these do not detract from the overall performance.	The beat is somewhat erratic. Some rhythms are accurate. Frequent or repeated duration errors. Rhythm problems occasionally detract from the overall performance.	The beat is usually erratic and rhythms are seldom accurate detracting significantly from the overall performance.
Sticking Patterns	Correct sticking markings (staccato, sticking patterns, etc) are executed accurately as directed by the score and/or the conductor.	Sticking patterns are usually correct, though there might be an isolated error. Markings are executed accurately as directed by the score and/or the conductor.	Sticking patterns are rarely correct, but markings are often executed accurately as directed by the score and/or the conductor and vice versa.	Few correct stickings. Markings are typically not executed accurately.
Dynamics	Dynamic levels are obvious, consistent, and an accurate interpretation of	Dynamic levels are typically accurate and consistent.	Dynamic levels fluctuate but can be discerned.	Attention to dynamic levels is not obvious.

	the style of music being played.			
Practice	Student's performance indicates regular and sustained practice outside of class, with great attention to areas of difficulty.	Student's performance indicates regular practice outside of class with some attention to areas of difficulty.	Student's performance indicates some practice outside of class, but with little attention to areas of difficulty.	Student's performance indicates there is very little practice outside of class.
Technique	Correct technique is used. Palms are down. Fingers are used to control the level of bounce. Hits the instrument with only enough force to make a pleasing, clear sound.	Correct technique is usually used. Hits instrument with slightly too much/little force but incorrect technique does not distract from the quality of the performance.	Correct technique is sometimes used. Incorrect technique distracts from the quality of the performance, but usually does not strike with excessive/insufficient force.	Correct technique is rarely used. Incorrect technique distracts greatly from the quality of the performance.

Instrument Rental Information

Middle C Music 4530 Wisconsin Ave Nw Washington, DC 20016	http://www.middlecmusic.com 202.244.7326
Chuck Levin's Washington Music Center 11151 Veirs Mill Road Wheaton, MD 20902 (Best repair shop in the area)	www.chucklevins.com/ 301.946.8808
House of Musical Traditions 7010 Westmoreland Avenue Takoma Park, MD 20912	http://www.hmtrad.com/ 301.270.9090
Music and Arts (Search for a store near you)	http://www.musicarts.com/

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.)

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: swab, cork grease, Vandoren or Rico Royal "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.)

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.)

Percussion:

(5A or 5B Drum Sticks and Glockenspiel Mallets)

(Students will need a Bells/Glockenspiel and Snare Drum Kit with a practice Pad)

Recommended Percussion Kits:

[YAMAHA TOTAL PERCUSSION BELL KIT WITH ROLLING CART/BACKPACK](#)

CB Percussion 8674 Junior Percussion Kit

Yamaha SPK250 Jr. Percussion Kit

Pearl PK-800C Percussion Kit

General Care for All Instruments

- **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 or to exposure to any source of heat, ie: sunlight, attics, hot cars, radiators, windows or anywhere direct sunlight can cause extreme heat or UV damage.

- **Remove Fingerprints**

Lacquered (brass) instruments require 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 these 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 entail an expensive repair. Prevent this by cleaning and oiling the bore of your wooden instrument.

Interactive Practice Studio "IPS" (Virtual Instrumental Class Tool)

Each class, we will use an app that correlates to your methods book called "**Interactive Practice Studio**" or "**IPS**" from **Kjos**. This app will help you practice the music and be prepared to play your instrument in class. Please download the Interactive Practice App (IPS) on your phone/tablet/or computer.

This app is in correlation with your methods book and will be used to hear your part and in some cases have accompanying recording to play with as you practice.

1. Website to instructions and link to the app/software download is here:
<https://kjos.com/IPS>
2. If you download to a computer you will be able to access most of the audio/mp3 of each of the excerpts in the book.
3. On a tablet or phone you will have access to the book and recordings of each excerpt also as clickable links.
4. How to use the tool to help you practice and send in recordings of you playing your instruments will be explained during class.
5. Once you receive your physical book you will need the access code which is usually located behind the cover. Use the code to “purchase” your book through the app for free.

Click on the appropriate operating system and follow the instructions to install the software:

Desktop/Laptop



Mac OS X 10.11 or Higher



Windows 7 or Higher

Phone/Tablet/Chromebook





Practice Log



Name: _____

Students are expected to practice at least 120–140 minutes for each practice log. Extra practice time is encouraged and will count towards your final grade. A self-reflection about what you have practiced is required on the bottom of this sheet. Practice charts are due once a week. Keep track of when you are handing practice charts in!

Day of Week	Today's date	Time begun	Time ended	Total time	Music worked on during practice session (Please be specific!!)	Student's Signature/Initials	Parent's Signature/Initials

Total time this week: _____

IMPORTANT!! Use a separate chart for each week! Practice charts should be sent to Mr. Frayer.