

Elementary Band Registration

Please register ASAP at the link below

<https://www.lwsd.org/programs-and-services/elementary-band-and-orchestra/elementary-band-and-orchestra-registration>

I. When, Where, and How?

When do Band classes meet?

All band classes will be taught by video lessons and video submissions by students. There will be voluntary weekly band times and voluntary lessons if the student would like a little extra help.

Who are the instructors for the classes?

Ms. Elizabeth Currey, a flute and saxophone player and a music teacher at Kamiakin Middle School.

Mr. Gabriel Velasco, a trumpet player and a graduate student at UW working on a Doctorate Degree in Music.

Where do the band classes meet?

All classes and lessons will be submitted to an online platform and Teams.

How does my student get to band and to their elementary school?

If in person learning is allowed, rehearsals will change to Kamiakin Middle School. Transportation and scheduled will be announced at that time.

How much class time will they miss?

All classes will be scheduled outside of their regular school day. Either directly before or directly after school. All live meetings will be voluntary

What if my child misses a rehearsal?

Students will be responsible for submitting one 5-10-minute video each week covering an assigned piece by either Ms. Currey or Mr. Velasco. There will be feedback provided. Late assignment will be accepted.

Are there concerts?

As of now, there are no concerts planned. If in person learning is allowed, concert dates will be released ASAP.

Will band interfere with other activities?

Band is a fantastic opportunity for you and your family. We know how busy students and families are and we are always proud to have accomplished athletes, dancers, actors and other interesting people sign up for band. We try to schedule our rehearsals and concerts as sensitively as possible so students can still pursue their homework and outside interests. Band is yet another way to become a well-rounded person.

II. What do we get to play?

What instruments are available to study?

Although there are many instruments in the Kamiakin bands, some are not suitable for beginners. Several of these are intended to be switched TO after one or two years on a similar instrument. Beginners may choose from the following band instruments (brass, and especially LOW brass are suggested for those who are undecided. All band directors LOVE to have more low brass players).

Flute (woodwind)
Clarinet (woodwind)
Trumpet (Brass)
Trombone (Brass)
Baritone (Brass)

Students who eventually wish to play percussion must start on one of the above instruments. This allows us to better meet the needs of each individual instrument grouping and student, along with allowing us to better teach critical note-reading skills to all students. We will audition interested students from these sections for percussion later in the year, after the second concert. This also allows us to maintain proper balance between sections in the band.

What equipment does my child need?

Each student will need an instrument, the required accessories, a book, and a pencil. We recommend purchasing a care kit. Ms. Currey will provide music folders.

The accessories include:

- Flute: cleaning rod, and a handkerchief or soft cloth for cleaning (preferably silk)
- Clarinet: cork grease, a drop through style cleaning cloth, and a minimum of five #2 clarinet reeds.
- Trumpet: valve oil, and a soft cleaning cloth.
- Trombone: slide oil and a soft cleaning cloth
- Baritone B.C.: valve oil, and a soft cleaning cloth.

What book should we buy?

The band students will be reading music from a book called **Tradition of Excellence, Book 1**. Please make sure that you purchase the book designated for your student's instrument. These books are available at all the local music retail stores (Music & Arts, Metropolitan Music, Kennelley Keys Music). We will be writing in them so it's important that they have their own. If the stores run out, don't panic. Your child can share for a while. We use the same book all year, so there are no other books to purchase.

Where do we get an instrument?

Most students rent band instruments from local music stores. The school has a few trombones and baritones that may be rented by paying a \$100 maintenance fee. If you already own an instrument in the family for your child to play, please have it checked out by a repair technician or one of the band directors to make sure it is playable. Please use a nametag on ALL cases. For a quality instrument, we recommend buying or renting at an established music store. Please avoid instruments from anywhere you might buy grocery items. Poor instrument quality may result in your student's frustration as many of those instruments (even new) arrive broken or are made unrepairable. If unsure, please contact us.

Beginning Band Info Night

Beginning Band Information Night will be held via a Teams Meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 22 at 6:30pm. Come get information and ask questions. Information regarding instrument rentals will also be given out at

How expensive is it to be in band?

There are no charges for band other than renting an instrument, purchasing a few accessories, and obtaining the book we use in class. Here's an estimated breakdown of costs for a beginning band student:

- Instrument rental – approximately \$20.00-\$30.00 per month
- Instrument accessories - \$10-\$20 per year
- Book – approximately \$8 per book

We do not want cost to be a factor in whether or not you join band. If your family has financial concerns, please contact Ms. Currey.



III. How do we get started?

○ The students will be seeing a demonstration of all of the instruments, hopefully within the first week of school, and should decide along with their parents what they would like to play. Please complete the registration form on the district website. <https://www.lwsd.org/programs-and-services/elementary-band-and-orchestra/elementary-band-and-orchestra-registration>

I don't have my instrument or book yet. Should I still START band?

YES! We can wait for your instrument or book to show up but there's information you need from the very first rehearsal. Please show up even if you're empty-handed.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Ms. Currey at Kamiakin Middle School: 425.936.2400 x54424
e-mail: ECurrey@lwsd.org or gvelasco@lwsd.org



*Kamiakin Middle School
Elementary Band Program
Serving Muir, Frost, Keller, and Thoreau
Elementary Schools*

The Lake Washington School District provides group instrumental music instruction for all 4th and 5th graders. The goals of this program are to introduce the student to performing music on an instrument, working within a group of other musicians, and help them progress to performing groups at the Middle School and High School level. The Kamiakin Middle School Elementary Band Program has been very successful for several years, and we hope you and your child will choose to take part in this exciting and beneficial program.

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Ms. Currey and Mr. Velasco

