



Grade School Band Program Handbook

St. Croix Lutheran Academy 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 SCLA 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 9, 2021**, 6:30 p.m. in the SCLA chapel and **Thursday, May 12, 2022**, 7:00 p.m. in the SCLA commons. These concerts provide an opportunity for students to perform with a full ensemble. To prepare for the concerts, it is a goal to have at least three rehearsals with the combined band during the school day at SCLA.

Another joint opportunity is the *Winter Band Concert* on **Sunday, March 6, 2022**, 2:30 p.m. which all the students within their association will be invited to participate. Rehearsals for this concert will take place during the school day.

Students receiving instruction from SCLA 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 2, 2022**.

Schedules will be adjusted as necessary to comply with current gathering guidelines during the pandemic.

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 the 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. It is highly recommended to have a music stand for practice to facilitate proper playing position and posture.



First-Year Student Supplies Needed:

Instrument	Brand Preference	Supplies
Flute	Yamaha, Jupiter	Swab, cleaning rod
Clarinet	Yamaha, Vito, Selmer	Reeds (Rico Royal, Rico 2 1/2), swab, mouth-piece brush, cork grease, Reed Gard
Saxophone	Yamaha, Vito, Selmer, Cannonball	Reeds (Rico Royal, Rico 2 1/2), swab, mouth-piece 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 or oil
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 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 SCLA 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 2021 he completed his Masters of 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 ninth year at SCLA, and he enjoys being a part of the SCLA ministry and working with all the area grade schools.



Mrs. Jamee Kroll serves as a band teacher and dorm supervisor at St. Croix Lutheran. She directs the middle school band, while also helping with the high school band. She is a graduate of Martin Luther College in New Ulm, MN with an Elementary Education Degree and a Music minor. Her primary instruments are piano and clarinet but is excited to teach all the various instruments. This is her first year at SCLA and she looks forward to forming relationships with her students and helping them enhance their God-given musical abilities



Dates to Remember

Thursday, December 9, 6:30 p.m.

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

Sunday, March 6, 2:00 p.m.

Winter Band Concert, SCLA gym
(all band students)

Saturday, April 2

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

Thursday, May 12, 7:00 p.m.

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

Contact Information

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May the Lord richly bless our BAND!



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StCroixLutheran.org/ESBand