

# GHR Band News

with Ms. D'Angelo

November 2023

## Band/Music "Informance" December 14th!

The 5th grade band and music classes will show you what and how they've been learning in band on Thursday, Dec. 14th at CHS's Veterans Auditorium. This is an informational performance to give families a glimpse into what we've been doing in lessons. Student arrival is at 6:15 with their instrument and band binder. The informance begins at 7:00.

**Informance Attire:** Business Casual or dressier. Any color; seasonal or neutral colors encouraged.

**Tops:** Collared shirt, sweater, blouse, polo. Long or short sleeves.

**Bottoms:** Khakis, dress pants, slacks, capris, skirt or dress that falls below knees when seated. (Opaque tights or leggings encouraged under dresses/skirts.)

**Shoes:** Dress shoes or clean, neutral shoes. No flip flops. No heels higher than ½ " for safety on risers and with instruments.

No athletic clothes, lounge clothes, or ripped clothes, please.

## Combined Rehearsal Tuesday, Dec. 12 during school

All band students must bring their instrument and band binder to school Tues, Dec. 12. This is our only opportunity to practice as a full band before the informance. The dress rehearsal will happen during normal school hours.



Skylar, Megan, and Ava showing off excellent hand position and posture to their cuddly classmates.



Olivia's clever organization of her case.

## Listening Opportunity, optional

You're invited to come to or to live stream a performance by Capitol Symphonic Winds, a concert band out of the Hartt School that Ms. D'Angelo plays in. This is a great chance for your child to hear their instrument played at an advanced level! The concert is FREE, but if you come in person, you do need a ticket. Dec. 13th at 7:30 PM at the University of Hartford.

[Find details here.](#)

## Instrument Serial Numbers

The serial number of your child's instrument is important to know if it ever becomes lost, stolen, or mixed up with another instrument. See the short videos below on how to locate the serial number and keep that number in a safe place. How to find the serial number on:

[trumpet, horn, trombone, and baritone/euphonium](#) or [flute, clarinet, and saxophone](#), or [percussion instruments](#)



Sam, Mackenzie, and Cameron practice Major Triple on horn.



Getting ready for sax class: Jed, Jed's pencil, Vera, and Paige.

## A Note on Instruments and Temperature

As we get into colder months be aware that wind instruments can be damaged by exposure to high heat and cold. Woodwind instruments like flutes, saxes, and clarinets have pads under the keys and tiny corks on the mechanism of the instrument. Even brass instruments such as trumpets, baritones, and trombones have felts within the valves and small corks. These soft materials and the glue that hold them expand, contract, and even melt when exposed to extreme temperatures. This can cause air leaks and other problems in the instrument that require repair. To prevent these issues, make sure the instrument is not left on or up against heaters, in the car, or in an unheated room.



## Clarinet Neckstraps

Many clarinet students, especially those with small hands may benefit from a neckstrap. When playing the clarinet, the weight is solely supported by the right thumb. Students often find this causes fatigue of the right thumb, wrist, or even the right arm. The neckstrap holds the weight of the instrument, leaving the right thumb to be used for balance and positioning without strain. Several students have tried using neckstraps during lessons with success. Not all students want or need a neckstrap but if your child asks, the neckstraps they have tried during lessons are below. Clarinet neckstraps come in an elastic, bouncy version and a non-bouncy regular version. Be careful when ordering so you get the one you intended.

Non-elastic version:

<https://www.musicarts.com/protec-clarinet-neck-strap-20-length-junior-main0383689>

Elastic version: <https://www.musicarts.com/bg-c20e-clarinet-support-strap-main0025724>





Jackson and Alysia watch Gabe perform in percussion class.



Nora shows Aiden, Colin, and Emily a note on clarinet.

**See you at the Informance on Dec. 14th!**

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