



Junction Middle School Music
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Welcome to the 2025-26 school year. I am so happy to join the Junction school community and consider it a privilege to teach your child.

To all of the new band students, welcome! You are about to start the incredible experience of making music. The students will be working hard, but they will be reaping tremendous gains. As stated by California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond, “*Arts education boosts school attendance, academic achievement, and college attendance rates; improves school climate; and promotes higher self-esteem and social-emotional development.*” **Taking music classes, specifically, has been linked to higher math, science, and reading scores.** Studies also point to a connection between middle school music instruction and language arts achievement; the more you play an instrument (two years or more), the better you read. Pretty cool stuff!

Throughout this and next week please expect several important items that will be brought home by your music student, including:

1. Band Handbook – with a letter **requiring a parent/guardian signature to be returned.**
2. Syllabus – **requiring a parent signature to be returned.** A syllabus will be sent home each trimester.
3. School Instrument Contract
4. Music Calendar for the 2025-26 school year
5. SmartMusic Letter - home practice online software, recommended
6. Practice Records – for weekly use, please copy as needed.

All items listed above will also be sent via E-mail. Please make sure I have an accurate e-mail address and **please configure your e-mail to accept e-mails from:**

lpradhan@junctionesd.net

I have also attached a volunteer sheet to this letter for all music parents/guardians to complete and return to the music room by Monday, August 25.

Returning band students will begin playing band instruments in class on **Monday, August 25.** School-owned instruments are all in working order. Please take some time to make sure all student-owned instruments are in working order as well. ***Working horns in top condition are essential to your student’s success in any band program.***

Beginning band students will spend the next two weeks discovering and being placed on their most compatible band instrument. We will also begin working on breathing techniques needed to play all band instruments (Yes! Even Percussionists work on breathing when they are a part of a Superior Band!).

As we begin this school year together, I would like to emphasize the level of commitment that is involved in being a band member. Band is kind of like a team sport- everyone practices together to become the best they can be. The big difference is that in band, no one sits on the bench for performances. Everyone participates fully, and everyone is necessary to the program. This is a wonderful thing to me!

Once again, I am looking forward to this new school year. I look forward to meeting new students and parents/guardians, and connecting with returning members! Please do not hesitate to contact me via phone or e-mail when questions arise about your music program. This is going to be a **GREAT** year for the Junction Elementary School Band and a **SUPERIOR** year for your student at Junction Elementary School!

Musically yours,
Mrs. Laura Pradhan, M.M.