

## **Marshfield Music Department F.B.M.S. Bands**

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome back to another school year. I am excited to see what we can accomplish together this year. In this letter, there are a few things you need to know for a successful year in band. If there are any questions regarding class procedures, you may call at (781)834-5020 ext. 430 or email sbrenner@MPSD.org.

I look forward to a great year!

Scott Brenner

### **Grading**

Band is graded HEAVILY on participation. It is important to bring everything you need to class and make sure your instrument works before you come to band. Forgetting your instrument will impact your grade. There will also be playing quizzes every Friday we have class (about every other week).

What you should bring to class

- your instrument
- music (including your red and blue books)
- reeds, valve or slide oil, etc.
- PENCIL

Again, make sure your instrument is in good working order before every class!!

### **Instrument Repair/Purchasing Accessories or Books**

Our instrument dealer is K & C Music. If your instrument needs repair, a representative comes to F.B.M.S. every Tuesday and Friday to pick up and drop off repairs. To arrange for a repair, call K & C the day before you leave the instrument to be picked up. Their phone number is (781) 769-6520, and it is also on your folder. Calling them allows them to bring you a loaner instrument while they have yours. If you still rent from them, the cost of the repair is covered. If you have finished payments for your instrument, most repairs will only cost you under \$50. **It is your responsibility to have your instrument repaired!!**

If you need books, reeds, or oil, we keep a stock at the school. Check with Mr. Brenner or Mr. Thomas for the price and bring in the money (cash or check payable to K and C Music) for the supply. **SUPPLIES WILL NOT BE GIVEN OUT IF THEY ARE NOT PAID FOR.** Larger and more expensive items can be ordered through the K and C representative if it is not stocked at the school.

## **Instrument Storage Lockers**

Each band student will be assigned to a band locker. The lock is provided to them. It is the student's responsibility to lock their lock securely so it is not tampered with or removed. Lost locks will cost \$20 to replace. Please be aware of your lock and keep your combination somewhere safe.

Students should not store anything other than band materials in their band locker. Instruments may be left in the band locker for the school day, and should be taken home at the end of the school day. It is hard to keep a regular practice schedule when your instrument is not with you.

## **Practicing**

I understand we all have a ton of things to do in a day and sometimes we can not get everything accomplished we would like to. However, practicing is an important part of becoming a better musician. It is also going to determine how much you enjoy playing your instrument. To ensure success in your musical endeavors, here are a few tips to keep practicing fun and easy, and will make the routine enjoyable.

- Practice regularly (we recommend 5 times a week, 25 minute sessions)
- Find a comfortable, quiet place to practice
- Start and end your session with something fun.
- Practice with a buddy from time to time
- CHALLENGE YOURSELF!!
- Play for an audience (mom, dad, siblings, teachers, friends)

We do have a Music Department Handbook you may refer to. When you receive it, please return the last page letting us know you have read it, and understand everything in it. It goes over concert times and dress, and other important information you should know about being part of the Marshfield Music Department.