



Band Information Packet



Dear 4th & 5th Grade Families,

We here at ASFS are excited that you have chosen to expand your child's musical abilities through playing. As being named one of "Best Communities for Music Education" in the nation by the NAMM (National Association of Music Merchants) Foundation we ensure that your child will not only enjoy playing in an ensemble but will also be receiving a great music education. However, with great music comes great responsibility, which is why we want to give you some information about the music program and the responsibilities for being in the band.

Weekly Details

ASFS is happy to say we are one of the few schools in the county that gets to see their students two times a week for instrumental rehearsals/lessons. These two meetings include a full band rehearsal for 40 minutes and an instrumental sectional time for 30 minutes. This extra time the students receive for sectional rehearsal is a pull-out lesson meaning that students will miss 30 minutes of academic time once a week unless there is a test/quiz they need to be present for. Since it is a pull-out sectional class student are responsible for any classroom instruction missed during instrumental music time (sectional time).

Homework/Practice

Students are expected to practice what they learn at school at home. We suggest a minimum of 100 minutes a week. Practicing an average of 20 minutes per day for 5 days a week is one way to reach the 100-minute week goal. If students want to practice longer than 20 minutes we encourage that but recommend practicing a max of 60 minutes in one day. Setting up a practice routine with your child such as practicing after school or after soccer practice is a great way to help the student accomplish their 100-minute goal every week.

Instrumental Music Commitment and Expectations

Similar to academic learning students are expected to do their weekly homework of 100 minutes. Every week students are to come to class with all materials (folder, book, instrument, and pencil) present. During the first and second nine weeks Mr. Bossé and Ms. Shine will call down students who have forgotten their sectionals to help them develop a weekly routine. After winter break, however, students will be responsible for coming to sectionals and the music teachers will not call down if a student forgets their sectionals. Finally, students are **required** to be at every school concert they will perform in unless there is a family illness, death, vacation, religious holiday, or doctor apt. Parents must send an email to Mr. Bossé or Ms. Shine about an absence to make it a valid. School concerts are normally two times a year (one in the winter and one in spring). The 2022-2023 Music Calendar will be sent out within the first weeks of the of the school year for families to mark down on their calendars in advance once dates and guidelines are confirmed. It is important to have every student in the band ensemble present at a concert to show off their musical growth to their audience, otherwise it's like all their hard work has been for nothing.

Instrumental Rentals

- ♪ You are encouraged to rent or purchase an instrument from a local music store such as Music and Arts in Alexandria, or Foxes Music in Falls Church...NOT Amazon or a department store.
- ♪ You may use an instrument you already own. Make sure the instrument is in good working condition. If you have any questions, we will gladly look at your instrument.
- ♪ ASFS has a very limited number of instruments to rent to students; a rental contract must be completed, and the instrument returned at the end of the school year. Please contact us for availability.
- ♪ ASFS wants to ensure that every 4th and 5th grade student has the opportunity to play an instrument. If for any reason families are unable to purchase the items needed to be in band, we will work together to assist the student's participation.

ASFS Rental

- Again, we encourage you to rent from a music store if you can as ASFS does not have enough instruments to allow every student to rent from the school.
- Families with free and reduced lunch will be given first preference with all other families considered after.
- Pricing:
 - \$25/year for Free/Reduced Lunch families
 - \$100/year for all other families

Private Lessons

- Students are not required to take private lessons while in band but would agree that it is a fantastic investment if you are able to.
- Private lessons range in price depending on the private instructor, but typically are \$30 per half hour and \$45 for a full hour.
- If you are interested in taking private lessons, please email Ms. Shine-Flaus or Mr. Bossé and we would be happy to give you a list of private teachers around the area.

Materials and Supplies!

Along with his or her instrument, each student will need the following to use for home practice sessions and school band rehearsals:

All Band Members will have:

- Pencil (sharpened and with eraser)
- Name tag to display on instrument case
- Folder for all handouts, assignments, and sheet music (will be provided)
- Essential Elements Method Book (will be provided)

Extra Supplies that are optional to purchase but encouraged to have at home

- Metronome to reinforce steady beat during home practice sessions. Can easily find a metronome app if you don't want a real one.
- Music stand to reinforce good posture during home practice sessions

Flute:

- Provided
 - o Cleaning rod (will be provided with instrument)
- Recommended to Purchase
 - o Untreated soft cloth – handkerchief works well

Clarinet:

- Provided
 - o Size 2 or 2½ Vandoren or Lurie/Rico brand Bb clarinet reeds (1-2)
 - o Cork grease
- Recommended to Purchase
 - o Cleaning swab

Saxophone:

- Provided
 - o Size 2 or 2½ Vandoren (or Hemke/Rico) brand alto saxophone reeds (1-2)
 - o Cork grease
 - o Padded neck strap
- Recommended to Purchase
 - o Cleaning swab

Trumpet/Baritone:

- Provided
 - o Tuning slide grease
 - o Valve oil

Trombone:

- Provided
 - o Slide cream and a small water-spray bottle or slide oil

Percussion:

- Provided
 - o Bell kit with drum pad (kit with snare drum in it is not necessary)
 - o Drumsticks (size 2B or SD1 Generals)



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