

John Young Beginning Band 2018-2019

For the first couple of weeks we will be exploring your options for picking a band instrument.

Each student will try the instruments on **Friday, August 17th** in class. There will be an evening meeting for parents at John Young on **Wednesday, August 22nd**. We will set up individual 15 minute appointments from 3:30 until 7:00. Representatives from Quinlan and Fabish Music will be on hand to explain the “rent to own” program. They will have the instruments here for you to purchase on site! You will be able to complete all of the paper work and have your instrument stored safely in the John Young Band room that evening. You can also use this time to simply try out every instrument!

After starting an instrument, you are committed to stay in the class for the entire year, so we sincerely want you to make the best possible choice. If you already know what you want to play, that’s great! We will spend the first few days demonstrating instruments and teaching some music fundamentals in class. You will need to bring a pencil and paper to class to take notes on a daily basis.

There are also a number of places in the community that sell used instruments. For example, visit World Wide Jewelry & Pawn 3737 Lincolnway East (574) 255-0900. You can also have good luck looking in the paper or on the internet (for example Ebay or Craigslist). The SB and Mishawaka Police Stations serve as “safe places” for Craigslist sales/transactions. Does an aunt, uncle, grandparent, brother, sister or parent have an old instrument you can use? Our best advice is that you make certain that the instrument you acquire is of good quality and in working order. Quinlan and Fabish performs excellent checkup and repair work.

****** Very Important ******

We strongly suggest that you avoid purchasing band instruments at local discount/large volume stores. It has been our experience that these inexpensive “off-brand” instruments do not hold up well over the course of years. Further, many of the local repair shops have indicated that they are unwilling to repair these “off-brand” instruments due to poor workmanship. Please call or email us if you have any questions regarding suggested brands.

Please be aware that we cannot provide school owned instruments to students unless there is a sincere financial need. We do own a few smaller school instruments such as flutes, clarinets and trumpets. Most of our instruments are of the larger variety such as tubas, trombones, French horns and baritones. Again, the number of these instruments available is *very* limited. Please have a parent contact us if you are going to need to use a school owned instrument. There is a \$40.00 per year fee to use these instruments. This money will go toward maintenance and repair. Please make checks payable to John Young Middle School Band.

Percussion instruments are the most difficult to learn in band. Only potential percussionists who pass aural and written tests given in the first few weeks and exhibit acceptable cooperation and

attention skills will be eligible to play percussion. We expect all percussionists to learn to read written music. If you are selected, there is a stick and mallet kit labeled for John Young Middle School that you are required to purchase from Quinlan and Fabish Music. In addition, all percussionists will be assessed a fee of \$40.00 for the upkeep, repair and use of school owned percussion instruments. Learning to play the bass drum, timpani, mallets and assorted percussion instruments is required for this class. Please do not purchase any of these instruments at this time. We provide all of the instruments.

Daily classroom participation includes playing *everyday*, having reeds, valve and/or slide oils, music, a pencil and anything else needed for playing in band. Please be aware that cell phones are not allowed in the band room and will be confiscated and turned over to the main office. If your instrument needs repair, please have one of the directors look it over first. If we can't fix it, we will advise you to take it to a shop for repair. If you cannot make it to Quinlan and Fabish to purchase any needed supplies, they are willing to deliver items to school for you. Just call 293-6332 and place your order. The assigned music is the main textbook in this class. Each student will need to purchase a 1.5 inch binder. We will hole punch all of the music to be inserted and use this as our textbook for the year.

Grades in band (part of your grade point average) are awarded on the following criteria:

- 1) Daily Participation (with book, music and instrument)
- 2) Regular Playing Tests
- 3) Concert Performances are the most important part of this class. We are leaving the dates somewhat open because we are searching for a larger venue so that we can seat the large bands and spectators.
 - a) Early December (TBA) 2018 (7:30 pm) Winter Concert in the John Young Gym
 - b) Tour of the Elementary Schools (During school day - date to be announced)
 - c) Early May (TBA) 2019 (7:30 pm) Spring Concert in the John Young Gym

Please note: If a student is not passing any one of their classes two weeks before the date of the tour of the elementary schools, they will not be allowed to leave the building.

Band is a performance class. Parents: Please come listen to what your child has achieved! Concert attendance is *mandatory* in order to pass this class. Excuses for concert night illness will be accepted via parent note, phone call or email well at least two weeks before the date. If you must miss for an excused reason, please be prepared to do an extensive make-up exam. Let us know if you cannot find a ride to the concert. We will arrange carpools with other students in the class. Having an unexcused absence to a performance constitutes a grade of F in band for the entire grading period.

Questions or Concerns? Please call Mr. Gamble or Mr. Chamberlin at 254-3600 ext. 3663

You can also contact use by email at:
gambled@mishawaka.k12.in.us
chamberlinka@mishawaka.k12.in.us

John Young Beginning Band

Yes, I have read the Band Expectations and understand the policies outlined. I understand that I am responsible to get an instrument to play in band, participate daily and attend all concert events.

Student Name (print) _____

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____