

Beginning Band



Wednesday Mornings 7:15am - 7:55am, Room 113A

Director: Craig Gonci - Voicemail: X2707 - Email: gonci@tesd.net Website: www.vfmsmusic.com

Overview

Beginning band is open to all VFMS students who are interested in starting a band instrument. Students will learn the basics of music performance, proper playing technique, correct posture, breathing, instrument maintenance, sectional balance. We will use "Essential Elements 2000" lesson books which are available to purchase through the VFMS Music Department, or at local music stores.

Rehearsals

Beginning Band rehearses every Wednesday from 7:15am - 7:55am. It is very important for students to be at rehearsal on time with their instrument, music and a pencil. It is recommended that students be dropped off on rehearsal days to avoid being late. Our first rehearsal will be 9/25/13. Students are encouraged to join the regular grade level school bands when they feel able to. Beginning band has no scheduled concerts.

Sectionals

In addition to rehearsals, students involved in beginning band will attend one sectional per week. Sectionals are a vital part of the instrumental program and are based on a rotating pullout schedule. Please inform Mr. Gonci as soon as possible if conflicts arise. Parents will be notified of any unexcused absences from sectionals. A sectional calendar can be found at www.vfmsmusic.com under the heading "Sectionals".

Practicing

Daily practice time is essential for student success in beginning band. All beginning band students should spend a minimum of 15 minutes each day on individual practice. The guidelines below will help to organize your practice time.

- Practice in the same place each day. Be sure there are no distractions. If possible, practice in front of a mirror to check your embouchure, hand position, and posture.
- Start with proper breathing and posture. Sit up straight. When you breathe in, your stomach and sides should move outwards like a balloon filling up. Shoulders should not move. When you exhale, make a 's' sound and push the air out. Try to make your air stream last 4 beats, then 8 beats. You should feel your stomach contracting. **USE HOT AIR!**.....as if you were trying to fog up a mirror.
- Next, play long tones. Concentrate on producing a pleasing sound. Think about your breathing. Produce a steady and controlled air stream. No two musicians have the same tone. Always make sure that your tone is clear and beautiful.
- Practice your music. Work on the parts that you cannot play. Practice them slowly at first and then increase the speed. Work one measure at a time for difficult parts.
- Practice to a metronome. Tap your foot with the beat.
- Pay careful attention to details such as: correct notes and fingerings, rhythms, key signatures and accidentals, signs and symbols, dynamics and articulations.