

Dear Band Parents & Students,

Greetings! I would like to take this opportunity to welcome (or welcome back) you to the Band program and to introduce myself as your Band Director. My name is Sharon Walker, and this is my fourth year teaching with Music Education Services, and my sixth year teaching music.

The following list is my set of expectations, and is very important to the success of your child in Band. Please read this with him/her so they will understand the road to success.

1. Attend all lessons. This will keep new music and ideas begin presented fresh and the Band will be able to progress every day.
2. Attend all the performances and be a contributing member of the Band.
3. Practice every day for the asked/preferred amount of time. This time will vary based upon ensemble level, as well as how much the student feels they need to practice in order to be successful.
4. Bring the four (4) required items to every lesson – instrument, music (book) , music stand, and a pencil. *Some schools will have stands for students to use during their lesson, but ALL students will need a foldable stand for home practice as well as our concerts.*
5. Bring letters home the same day you receive them and return it to Band on time if required.
6. Always do your best, have fun playing the music, and enjoy being part of a valuable group.

Parents hold a vital role in the success of your child. The experience is Band will teach them responsibility, self-discipline, work ethic and group cooperation. They will be part of a special group that is unique at their schools and community. Due to the fact that I only see your student/s twice a week, practice at home is **CRUCIAL**. Music is learned by trail and error, and lots of repetition. **Practice must be treated like any other homework in that it must be consistent to expedite the learning process. I ask you, as parents/guardians, to please assist your child in a regular practice routine.**

The Band will also be performing at different times throughout the school year. It is a wonderful experience, and I can hardly wait to have you hear the progress. Information regarding concert dates, times and locations – including other information throughout the year – can be found on a separate hand out inside your student’s folder. You can also find the same information, as well as additional tools and helpful resources, on our Band website at www.musicedservices.org/sharon-walker. You’re welcome to contact me at walker.band@musicedservices.org, or by phone at (630) 991-0062. Calls after 7:00pm will be returned the next business day. The MES main office is also open Monday through Friday, from 6:30AM – 5:00pm, and can be reached at (847) 805-1800 for questions regarding billing.

I look forward to working (or continue working) with your student/s and our school communities. Let’s make another wonderful musical year together!

Best Regards,
Ms. Sharon Walker (*Director of Bands*)