



WELCOME TO BEGINNING BAND!

Welcome to the SUSD 5th Grade Beginning Band! We are thrilled that you are with us for a great year of education, creation, and performance! Please take note of a few reminders and class information...

- **Practice Expectations:** Playing a musical instrument is as much a physical skill as it is an intellectual one. Students are expected to be practicing on a consistent basis, preferably daily. Practice time, especially on a beginning instrument, needn't be very long, but consistency is important. Even just 10 minutes a day (20-30 by the end of the year) of deliberate, dedicated practice will yield great results on the part of your students.
- **Student Initiative:** Students are encouraged to be first and foremost their own advocates in asking questions and addressing concerns. Please encourage them to approach and contact us even when they don't have questions. We love talking to our students!
- **Performances:** Schedules for the year were included in your beginning band packets. Please go over all performance dates and clear conflicts now. Performances are the benchmarks that we work toward! They are the equivalent of midterms or final exams of other classes, and students are expected to attend and support the rest of their peers in their ensemble, as well as the rest of the performing groups at our concerts.
- **Teacher Contact:** You may expect responses related to band class within 24-36 hours of when they were sent (on weekdays). If we cannot immediately answer any questions you might have, we will send you a courtesy confirmation within 24 hours from when your message was received and a note that we will get back to you later. If you have not heard back from us within the first 36 hours of your email, please make another attempt. Some emails have gotten lost through cyberspace, others get lost among the mix of the many others that we receive during the day, and other times we simply face human error, as much as we attempt not to make these mistakes!
- **Website:** Find us online at **redwoodmusic.us**. Please bookmark us to find all reminders, handouts, assignments, news, and updates (and help us save paper along the way)! Also be sure to check out our Saratoga Music Booster (SMB) website at **saratogamusicboosters.org**.
- **Students:** Your students are our #1 priority! Please contact us if there is anything that you would like us to know about your student that would help us better our understanding and instruction to enhance and maximize their learning experiences.

We are looking forward to a great year!

Mr. Jow: jjow@saratogausd.org • Ms. Gelman: sgelman@saratogausd.org