



---

## ***BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT***

Welcome to the Redwood music program for the upcoming school year! We are glad that you are with us for a great year of education, creation and performance! A class syllabus should have showed up at home from your student for you to look over together and return a few included pages (if it has gotten “lost,” you can download a copy off of our website). Please take note of a few reminders and addenda to the class information...

- Instrument Storage & Pickup: We love our students! We also love that they play a diverse spread of instruments. We particularly love middle schoolers because we have the opportunity to play a significant role in teaching them about personal responsibility and time/material management. All students are expected to take their instruments home (or have another instrument stored at home) to practice and maintain daily. It is your student’s responsibility to pick up his or her instrument from the music room after school. This means no friends or other adults may do this for them. This ensures safety of both the equipment as well as our campus.
- 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. They will be assigned scales and musical excerpts and evaluated on a regular basis.
- Student Responsibility: Students are expected to be first and foremost their own advocates in middle school and responsible for initial questions they may have regarding class material, assignments, and grades. As much as we appreciate parent help and support, we don’t want to hear from you first! We expect our students to approach and contact us even when they don’t have questions. We love talking to our students!
- Performance Conflicts: Schedules for the year have been passed out to your student. Please go over all performance dates and determine conflicts now. Performance excusal requests must be made at as soon as possible and no later than one month prior to a performance for no penalties to their grades. Otherwise, students are assumed to have no conflicts for performances and are expected to maintain their responsibilities to the ensemble.

- Sheet Music: The curriculum of an instrumental music class is the music that is passed out to students. As such, all music should be treated like one would treat a borrowed textbook. Students get one copy of respective sheet music for each piece that the ensemble will play. Hint: if music is placed in a student's plastic pages immediately upon receipt, it is much less likely to get lost! At the end of the school year, all music must be returned or destroyed/recycled.
- We Need You!!!: ***If you have not yet been processed and cleared as an SUSD volunteer, please don't wait to do so!*** You never know when we will need help - or when you will want to help out - at the last minute! This includes all volunteer opportunities, whether in any classroom with any school program, uniform fitting, chaperoning, even grad night and more!
- Emails to Mr. Jow: You may expect responses related to band class within 24 hours of when they were sent (on weekdays). If I cannot immediately answer any questions you might have, I will send you a courtesy confirmation within (and most often less than) 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 me within the first 24 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 our calendar, 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 my understanding and instruction to enhance and maximize their learning experience.

Mr. Jow: [jjow@saratogausd.org](mailto:jjow@saratogausd.org)

Mr. Ramirez: [jramirez@saratogausd.org](mailto:jramirez@saratogausd.org)

Ms. McPherson: [imcpherson@saratogausd.org](mailto:imcpherson@saratogausd.org)

Phone: (408) 867-3042 ext. 151

**redwoodmusic.us**