



Beginning Band Updates, November

Dear Parents,

We are happy to report that our 5th grade Beginning Band is off to a terrific start! We have completed the first two units in our method book and have already begun working on some pieces for our concert on **December 17th**. (Gentle reminder here: please make sure this date is on your family calendar: we need all our musicians to play on our first concert and all concerts! These are like our "final exams" of our many hours of work in the mornings.)

Please help your band student get a **binder** (1/2" thick) and **10-12 sheet protectors** for it. We now have 3 pieces that we're working on that are NOT in our method book, i.e. "singles." This music is best stored in a notebook inside a sheet protector. This prevents damage and loss to those loose pages that they receive. Students should have the binder and sheet protectors by the Tuesday after Thanksgiving (11/27).

Beginning Band is a team effort. This year our team is an impressive 82 students – the largest that it has been in many years! Setting up and putting away chairs for 82 musicians EVERY MORNING requires EVERYONE'S help. Students who are habitually late to class miss the opportunity to help us get started on time, ultimately losing valuable practice time. Today's class was almost 10 minutes late starting because not all students were present or helping. Please help your student learn to do his/her part by getting them to Argonaut by 7:10 so that we all have a great experience and maximize our playing time!

As the days get shorter, mornings get darker. If your student walks to Argonaut, please make sure that he/she has some reflective gear/tape/fabric somewhere on their clothing or backpack so that they are visible to drivers. Some of our neighborhoods have no sidewalks, which means that children are walking on the side of the road. Without reflective gear they are hard to see! Let's keep our children safe by making them visible when it is dark.

Summary:

- 1. Notebook and sheet protectors by 11/27**
- 2. Arrive at Argonaut by 7:10**
- 3. Be visible in the dark.**
- 4. First concert DECEMBER 17. More information coming!**

It is a pleasure to work with our young musicians and you will be pleasantly surprised when you hear our first concert! Thank you for your support. Best wishes for a happy Thanksgiving. Don't forget to look for Saratoga High School band and crew who are marching in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Go team!

Mrs. Becky Dugan, Beginning Band Brass
Mrs. Lauri Sutterfield, Beginning Band Woodwinds
Mr. Jow, Redwood Music Director

PS - Thank you parents of baritone students who have purchased metal mouthpieces for your musicians! 1 or 2 students still need to purchase their mouthpieces. Having your own metal mouthpiece not only gets a better tone on your instrument, but also is your part of taking ownership of your instrument and responsibility of your belongings.