



Oakleaf Jr. High School Yellow Jacket Band

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*****TIPS Beginning Band Parents*****

---VISIT THE BAND WEBSITE FOR RECORDINGS & FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK SO YOU ARE UP TO DATE ON ALL COMMUNICATION ☺---

***Starting on the Tuesday after Labor Day, EVERY Beginning Band student must be in class w/their instrument, book, BAND FOLDER, reeds, extra mouthpieces, stick bag, etc... (BARI SAX, BARITONES, TUBAS, PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS STAY AT HOME)**

*Please refer to the band supply list and make sure your student is ready to go.

→I will start with tips that cover ALL the instruments and then I will give tips for each instrument.

Tips for all instruments

Tip #1. Starting the Tuesday after Labor Day and EVERYDAY after--- every student must have in Band Class: their instrument (unless I am providing a school instrument- see Tip #2), band folder with OLJHS music book & handouts, and a pencil. **DON'T MISS BAND CLASS THE FIRST SEVERAL WEEKS.** I teach each instrument section TOGETHER. If a student misses band class they will be missing VERY IMPORTANT techniques that I am teaching each day.

Tip #2. The following students will leave their “big” instrument at home and will use mine at school: bari sax, tuba, baritone, and percussion. Tuba and baritone students will need everything listed in Tip #1 plus their mouthpieces. The percussion students will need everything listed in Tip #1 plus their stick bag which includes drumsticks and mallets (don't bring your bell kit/drum/practice pad).

Tip #3. Students will need to practice their instrument **everyday** for at least 20-30 minutes a day. Parents will need to monitor their practice time and make sure the student IS PRACTICING. You will see & hear great things coming from the investment you are making when the student pays attention to my daily lessons and they practice their instrument at home. The band student must practice their instrument in order to strengthen their muscles so they can be successful.

Tip #4. If you bought a metal wire music stand, LEAVE THE METAL WIRE MUSIC STAND AT HOME. It is there for the student to practice with. It teaches correct posture and will hold their music. DON'T BRING THE WIRE MUSIC STAND TO SCHOOL. ☺

*****Bike Riders:** Think about how you are getting your instrument to school and back home each day. ☺

*****BUSES:** If a student rides the bus → Place the instrument under the bus seat in front or under the seat they are sitting on or between their knees. When students get to school- come to band room first and drop off the instrument. At the end of the day, they come to the band room to get their instrument and take it home-EVERYDAY—they are required to practice everyday, so they need the instrument at home every day.

TURN OVER TO SEE TIPS FOR YOUR SPECIFIC INSTRUMENT -> → →

Tips for the Woodwind Section – oboe, flute, clarinet, bass clarinet, alto sax, tenor sax, bari sax

1. Except flute and oboe, you should have a box of Vandoren reeds size 2 (switch to size 3 in January). This is the brand I use and I want all students on this brand. I believe this brand will give the student the best opportunity at producing a great sound on their instrument. Also, if a reed is chipped, split, cracked, or broken- it is of no use and must be thrown away. BE CAREFUL WITH THE REEDS!!! *Oboe- reeds: Jones medium soft / buy several.
 2. Use the cork grease and grease all areas with a cork. Also grease up the areas where the instrument parts come together (flutes don't have corks so put it on the metal itself).
 3. Use the diagram in this Music Book to put the instrument together. Please be very careful at first. Don't shove anything hard. The brand new instruments with "cork rings" will need a lot of grease and some firm twisting to get the parts together.
 4. I strongly request that the student is careful when making a sound. I will show them how to correctly make a sound on the instrument; and they will need to practice these correct procedures everyday.
 5. Students come to school with: band folder and music handouts, music book, instrument, and all reeds in the case.
- *If you bought a metal wire music stand, leave it at home.

Tips for the Brass Section – trumpet, french horn, trombone, baritone, tuba

1. Be very careful! If the instrument is dropped- it could mess up the valves or trombone slide! The valves and trombone slide are very sensitive.
2. **Do not take out the valves.** If the valves need more oil, use the bottle that came with the instrument or the care kit. Put drops of oil in the hole on the bottom of the valves. **Please do not take out the valves!** Never use tools to fix something yourself. Bring it to me & I will try to repair it the correct way.
3. Use the diagram in this Music Book to put the instrument together. Please be very careful at first. Don't shove anything hard. If the mouthpiece gets stuck- do not take it out yourself!!! I have a special device that will free it from the instrument.
4. Students can practice with their mouthpieces a lot!
 - a. Trumpet players need to have a 3C mouthpiece. (not the mouthpiece that came with the case)
 - b. Trombone players need to have a 7C mouthpiece. (not the mouthpiece that came with the case)
 - c. Baritone players need to have a 6 ½ AL large bore mouthpiece. There is a mouthpiece that came with the school baritone. ONLY use this mouthpiece for the baritone at home. The mouthpiece you purchased (6 ½ AL) will be used for the baritones at school.
 - d. Tuba players need to have a Conn Helleburg mouthpiece.
5. DO NOT BRING THE BARI SAX, BARITONE, or TUBA TO SCHOOL- I will provide professional band instruments for them to use.
6. Students come to school with: band folder and music handouts, music book, instrument (or just mouthpiece: tubas & baritones), and the case. ----*If you bought a metal wire music stand, leave it at home.

***Tips for the Percussion Section* (TRY TO TAKE PRIVATE LESSONS FROM A PROFESSIONAL)**

1. Use the diagram in this Music Book to put the instrument together. Please be very careful at first. Don't shove anything hard. MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE 'COMBINED PERCUSSION' band book from Accent on Achievement.
2. Since the majority of my beginning percussion students have had piano in the past; they can start identifying how the bells are similar to the piano. The "drum pad" is used to practice the techniques learned to play the different drums.
3. (If applicable) I have adjusted the snare drum itself. Please do not loosen or tighten any of the screws.
4. Find a place in the house that will allow the snare drum and/or bell kit to stand. Go ahead and make a sound! Make sure each hand is going straight up and down, not sideways.
5. Students need all items listed on the supply sheet.
6. DO NOT BRING THE PERCUSSION KIT TO SCHOOL I will provide professional band instruments for them to use. Students come to school with: band folder and music handouts, music book, and stick bag.
7. Check band website for a list of professional percussion teachers. ----*If you bought a metal wire music stand, leave it at home.