



## **Oakleaf Jr. High School Yellow Jacket Band**

4085 Plantation Oaks Blvd. Orange Park, FL 32065

Mike Summers, Director of Bands / David Allen, Assistant Director of Bands

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www.oakleafband.com / BAND INFO & UPDATES: <https://www.facebook.com/oakleafyellowjacketband>

### ***\*BAND 1: BEGINNING BAND (8<sup>th</sup> Graders)\****

#### ***\*\*PLEASE READ\*\****

*8<sup>th</sup> grade families- We are honored you have signed up for Beginning Band! But, please understand that most band musicians start in 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Our band program is designed to get the band musician ready for the OHS band program. There is also usually a 2-year financial commitment with the music stores to rent the instruments. Because of this, we are only offering a few instruments that have an early learning success rate if the student applies themselves. So, please consider this info and decide if this fits your plans for the upcoming year. If not, contact guidance to change your elective.*

***\*WELCOME TO THE YELLOW JACKET BAND PROGRAM!***

***\*VISIT THE BAND WEBSITE IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO  
ALREADY: [www.oakleafband.com](http://www.oakleafband.com)***

***\*‘LIKE’ us on FACEBOOK: Oakleaf Jr. High Band← this is important!!***

The start of a new school year can be quite crazy. I will do my best to provide ALL band info to you in order to get your student “plugged-in” to the most exciting band program around. The band website & Facebook page is updated every week- the info below should help you get started.

#### ***→FIRST OF ALL.... - DO NOT GO OUT AND BUY AN INSTRUMENT YET!!!!***

No instrument has been assigned to a student, unless you have already spoken to the Band Director. ☺ There are many students signed up for the Beginning Band classes, and it is our responsibility to place each student with the correct instrument that fits them and they like.

***\*There is a process...***

The process for “fitting” a student to a band instrument is very unique and fun. The experience of the Band Director is very critical to this “fitting” process because getting ‘it’ wrong can be frustrating to the student in their musical journey. Most students can be fitted to most instruments. But, there are a few instruments that require specific physical qualities in order for success. We ask parents to trust the process and to not allow their past experiences to influence the “fitting” process. Once a student has been “fitted”, a CONGRATULATIONS letter will be sent home with further directions on how to contact the music stores to get the instrument and band supplies.

\*The list of instruments and their descriptions can be found here:

[http://www.oakleafband.com/uploads/1/1/6/9/116934505/beginning\\_band\\_eval\\_for\\_instr\\_placement.pdf](http://www.oakleafband.com/uploads/1/1/6/9/116934505/beginning_band_eval_for_instr_placement.pdf)

***\*\*PLEASE READ THE ‘INTRO TO BEGINNING BAND’ INFO ON BAND WEBSITE\*\****

#### ***\*\*PLEASE READ\*\****

***BAND IS FUN!!! But- There is an Academic Commitment AND a Financial Commitment. Over the next several days, as we conduct music evaluations, if you have questions, please contact us so that we can help you and your student. Sincerely, Mr. Summers & Mr. Allen***

## **2022-23 BAND FEES for Band 1: Beginning Band → \$120** [Due on August 31]

Band fee (fair-share) is the amount that each student is responsible for contributing to the band program. Some people believe that the school or county should fund the band programs. Wouldn't that be great? That will not happen! So, band programs must fund themselves. -----please pay with cash or a 'good' check made out to: Oakleaf Jr High School Band-----

**This fee pays for band shirts, music, in class supplies, state and district musician fees, & other miscellaneous items/equipment that every band is responsible for in order to exist and perform.**

**Please let me know if other financial arrangements need to be made. My goal is to find a way for every band student to experience performing their instrument for thousands of people at all the events listed on the band calendar.**

**The Band Fee is not the same as the rental fee to the music store and does not include the yearly \$100 rental for school instruments.**

\*Polo sizes come in: Adult Xsmall, Adult S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL

\*Note: Please provide the following for your child for the concerts:

UNIFORM -black dress shoes, black dress socks, and black pants. (The band polo is included in the band fees.)

\*Parents must provide the band instrument and instrument care supplies listed on the REQUIRED INSTRUMENT LIST, through any approved music store. Please check the 'Required Instrument' form for acceptable brands.

- **→LOOK! --- There is a separate 'congratulations' form that will list all supplies / instrument stuff you will need to get from the music store. I will pass that out during the first week of school after we know what instrument your student going to play.**

### **Beginning Band Calendar of Events 2022-2023**

***\*The Band Calendar will be updated when necessary; so check the band website or Facebook often.\****

\*8/10 (Wednesday)- Students start school- WELCOME BACK!

\*First week of school: Instrument evaluations & Music evaluations / SCHEDULE CHANGES IF NEEDED- **A congratulations letter will be given to every Beginner once the evaluations are complete :)**

\*8/29 (week before Labor Day)- Beginning Band should have ALL their instruments & supplies needed for Band or **schedules will need to be changed.**

**→\*8/31- yearly fair-share Band Fee due (\$120) / +\$100 yearly rental if using a school instrument. -- Please contact Mr. Summers if you need more time to get the fees in... it's not a problem, I just need to know.**

\*12/9 (Friday)- 3:50-6pm BB- Mandatory Rehearsal after school & before band concert that night (REQUIRED EVENT)

\*12/9 (Friday)- 6:00pm- Band Concert / (REQUIRED EVENT)

\*4/28 (Friday) - 3:50-6pm BB- Mandatory Rehearsal after school & before band concert that night (REQUIRED EVENT)

\*4/28 (Friday)- 6:00pm- Band Concert & Awards / (REQUIRED EVENT)

**→Leading up to a band event, Mr. Summers will ALWAYS send home a letter with details so that the Parents can be prepared.**

**Please check the band Facebook for updates throughout the year. <https://www.facebook.com/oakleafyellowjacketband>**

**Please check the online grading system: FOCUS for dates of tests and your student's band grades.**

**"Poor planning or forgetting" does not excuse a band student from any REQUIRED date listed above associated with their band (s). Let your athletic coach or extracurricular sponsor know if there are any dates you will miss a practice/game/etc. due to a REQUIRED Band event.**

→ The OLJHS Band Program is one of the elite programs in the State and high standards/expectations are emphasized. By "electing" to sign up for BAND, the student (with parent support) commits to being at all rehearsals, performances, and/or scheduled events THAT APPLY TO THE STUDENT'S BAND THAT THEY ARE A MEMBER OF. There are State Standards that each band student is responsible for completing in the Band Class. *All rehearsals & performances are a part of these standards / band curriculum and their attendance is crucial to their musical development and overall grade in band.* The OLJHS Band Program participates in many events during the school day and several events throughout the year which take place during after school hours or on the weekend.

\*Note: By being a member of the Band Program, the student & parent agree to be at all 'REQUIRED EVENTS' related to the student's band/group; and understand that all rehearsals and performances related to the student's band/group; are a part of the State Standards for Band. Only an emergency can excuse a student-musician from a REQUIRED EVENT. (Mr. Summers' definition of an emergency: *an unforeseen family emergency due to death or serious illness.*) There are NO 'make-up' assignments for missed performances because there is no other assignment that can equal the weight of importance of a performance.