

Chinese Christian School
After School Beginning Band/ Intermediate band/Advanced Woodwinds Handbook

2011-2012 School Year

Welcome to beginning band! Please, read the following information carefully with your parents and return the last page to Ms. Lo on your first day of band.

Obtaining an Instrument:

All students are required to supply their own instruments and accessories. Instruments may be rented from several local area music stores, including music stores outside of the area. I have provided contact information for the local area music stores at the end of the handbook. *Students need to have their instruments by their first day of band, which is the week of August 29, 2011.*

Band Attendance:

Beginning Band students will meet in Alameda, from 3:30-4:45PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Intermediate Band students will meet in San Leandro Rm. 10 from 3:15-4:15PM on Wednesdays

Advanced Woodwinds will be held in the San Leandro Rm. 10 from 4:15-5:15PM on Wednesdays.

Band members cannot learn without being in class. They must bring their instrument, music, and a pencil on time to every band class.

Every time a student misses band, I must receive a note or e-mail from a parent or guardian explaining the absence.

Practice Time:

One cannot become skilled at anything without a significant amount of practice! Please, plan on practicing your instrument at least five times a week for fifteen minutes a session!! As you progress through the year, those practice times should increase.

Rehearsal rooms:

All band members are expected to take their instruments home every day to practice. The Rehearsal rooms are just like every other classroom, except it has many valuable instruments. Students are only allowed to touch and play their instrument. They must respect the property of their fellow band members and of the school.

Concerts:

We will have two concerts this year as a beginning band. Please, mark these dates on your calendar:

Christmas concert: TBA

Spring concert: Friday, May 18, 2012, 7:30PM (6:00PM call time)

All students will be expected to attend both concerts.

Behavior during band:

Band is just like any other class. I expect students to arrive on time, ready to work and learn. Unacceptable behavior will result in a phone call home and may cause dismissal from band.

Band Book:

Band books will be provided to your student by the district. Please, remember to bring your book to each class. Treat your band book carefully, like any math or history book. You may write in the book, but please write lightly in pencil only. Any student that loses their band book must pay \$5 for a new one.

Outside Private Lessons:

I strongly believe in private lessons! Although band can teach many wonderful elements of music, it cannot teach the nuances of playing your instrument. There is not enough time for the band instructor to teach the subtleties of each instrument without taking away from the ensemble instruction. It is extremely helpful to get private lessons for instrument instruction. Included is a list of area music stores that give private lessons. Call them if you are interested, or if you have further questions, feel free to contact me at school.

Instrument Care:

As part of learning how to play your instrument, students will also be responsible for knowing how to care for and clean your instrument. I will give you further instruction on this during the first few weeks of band.

Reed Instruments: Saxophones and clarinets need to have at least three reeds in their case at all times. When you pick up your instrument the store will help you to choose reeds. Reeds come in varying strengths ranging from 1 ½ to 4. Beginning students should start with a 2 and progress through each strength as their embouchure strengthens. I will have a few reeds on hand for emergencies only. If you purchase a reed from me, the cost is \$1.00. Please make sure to periodically replenish your supply of reeds. In addition, students should have cork grease in their case at all times. Students can purchase “cleaning kits” that contain spare pads, cleaning supplies, and possibly reeds.

Brass Instruments: Trombones need a spray bottle for water and slide oil in their case at all times. Trumpets need to have valve oil and slide grease in their case at all times. One bottle of oil should last you a year or more. Music stores will have these items available as well. You can also purchase “cleaning kits” that contain all oils and grease as well as polishing rags and cleaning supplies. They are inexpensive, very handy, and highly recommended!

Percussionists: You will need to purchase your instrument. It is suggested that you purchase a drum set kit, which will have all the items you will need in beginning band. While purchasing a drum kit seems costly up front, it is actually a much cheaper route to go, especially when compared to the monthly rental expense of instruments. The drum kit I am suggesting is the Verve BK1000 Student Model Bell Kit. The item can be purchased online at <http://www.wwbw.com/Verve-BK1000R-Bell-Kit-with-Rolling-Cart-491786-i1431531.wwbw> through Woodwind Brasswind (item #140847).

Students can also purchase each of the items individually. They will need a practice pad, drumsticks in the strength of 5A, bells, and bell mallets in order to rehearse each of their parts.

Dropping Band:

I hope that none of you come to this point, but I also understand that band is not for everyone. If you feel like you are not enjoying band, please come and talk to me before making an ultimate decision. Try to give it a year's commitment as it takes time to learn a new skill.

How to reach Ms. Lo:

Please, feel free to call or email me at Chinese Christian Schools at (510) 351-4957 or AshleyLo@ccs-rams.org. E-mail is probably the best way to reach me.

Parent participation and encouragement is a huge part of success in band. Do not hesitate to call or email me with any concerns you may have.

Volunteering:

If either parent or guardian would like to volunteer during band, please notify me via email provided below. Please let me know if you play an instrument and are willing to hold sectionals when needed. Parents that would like to volunteer but do not have the musical experience are still welcome to assist, as instruction will be provided to assist you.

Thank you and I look forward to a great year with the *Chinese Christian school bands!*

In Him,

Ms. Lo
Band and Choral Director
Chinese Christian Schools
(510) 351-4957 ext. 582
AshleyLo@ccs-rams.org

Instrumental Rental Information

It is strongly recommended that you rent, not buy, an instrument if this is your first time playing the instrument you have chosen. Music stores usually require persons renting instruments to have two major credit cards (VISA, MasterCard, American Express or Discover). Rental plans are usually either lease or month-to-month.

Example: LEASE

Pay one payment of \$150.00 for the school year (9 mos.)

$$\$150.00 \div 9 = \$16.67/\text{mo.}$$

Example: MONTH-TO-MONTH

Pay minimum rental of 3 months, then pay monthly rental for as long as you need to use the instrument!

$$\$25.00/\text{mo. rental} \times 3 \text{ months minimum rental} = \$75.00$$

At the end of three months, make regular \$25.00 payments each month as long as you need the instrument. As long as you are making payments, you don't have to return the instrument!

Example: DEPOSIT

If no credit cards, ask if store will take a deposit.

Pay minimum rental of 3 months + deposit (\$50.00-\$200.00)

$$\$25.00/\text{mo. rental} \times 3 \text{ months minimum rental} = \$75.00 + \text{deposit}$$

At the end of three months, make regular \$25.00 payments each month as long as you need the instrument. As long as you are making payments, you don't have to return the instrument! When you return the instrument in good condition with all rental payments made on time, you get your deposit back.

If you don't want to rent and decide to buy, please see Miss Lo. Let me know what you plan to buy and I will let you know if it is a good make and model of instrument. Please refrain from buying instruments from Costco, Target, or other retail stores.

Other sources of instruments: friends or relatives. Please be sure that the borrowed instrument is in good playing condition

Music Instrument Rentals, Repairs and Sales

DUBLIN

- ♪ Runzo's Music World
7017 Village Parkway, Dublin (925) 829-4233
<http://www.runzosmusicworld.com>

FREMONT

- ♪ Allegro Music
3115 Walnut Ave., Fremont (510) 793-3500
<http://www.allegromusic.net/>

OAKLAND

- ♪ A & G Music Products Co.
564 14th St., Oakland 1-(800)-727-3822
<http://www.agmusic.com/>
- ♪ Best Music Company
1716 Broadway, Oakland (510) 832-2024
<http://www.bestmusicco.com/>

SAN FRANCISCO

- ♪ Union Music Company
1710-B Market Street (415) 775-6043
<http://www.unionmusiccompany.com/>
- ♪ Music Center of San Francisco
207 Powell St., 2nd Floor (415) 781-6023

SOUTH BAY AREA

- ♪ [World Of Music](#)
20015 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino (408) 252-8264

Band Handbook Return Form

Please return this last page only to Ms. Lo in the music room. The **Band Handbook Return Form must be turned in before the student can play in the band.** The Band Handbook is for you to keep throughout the year.

I have read the band handbook and understand the information regarding rules, performances, practicing, and instrument care.

Student Name

San Leandro/Alameda

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent email address*

Parent phone number

*All announcements will be sent to your email address.