

Welcome to the VVCM Band Program!

We're so happy that you're here. 😊

All VVCM students in grades 4-8 can join our growing band program.

We have four (4) bands at VVCM.

### **1) 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Beginner Concert Band**

This is our first year band at VVCM. All beginner band students will learn music basics which will include learning how to read music and how to play an instrument.

#### **What instruments can I choose from?**

Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, and Snare Drum.

#### **How will I know which instrument to choose?**

A few weeks after the new school year begins we will be presenting an in-class introduction to the band program for all 4<sup>th</sup> graders. This will include a demonstration of all of the instruments that were mentioned. Additionally, listen to music or watch videos of each of the above instruments to get an idea of how they sound and how they are played. Lastly, search within your heart and listen to what gets your attention. Or another way to put this is, which instrument makes you smile?

#### **After I've chosen my instrument, where do I get it?**

- a) Local music stores will rent instruments. These include El Dorado Hills Music or Nicholson's Music (in Folsom). Please note, there are other music stores you can rent from as well. Lastly, if you are planning on renting, I would strongly suggest that you reach out to a music store sooner than later as they sometimes run out of rentals.
- b) Purchase an instrument (new or used).

#### **Are there any other items that I will need?**

Music Method Book – *Sound Innovations Book 1* (for your child's instrument).

Clarinet and Alto Saxophones will need reeds and cork grease.

Trumpets and Trombones will need valve oil or slide oil.

I will be sending along more info regarding the above with detailed specifics.

### **What else do I need to do to participate in the band program?**

Commit to a daily practice schedule of 15 minutes of home practice time per day. You can use a timer to keep track. You will see and hear the results of this simple plan!

Along with your instrument and your music, bring a happy and joyful heart to the band room, because we are going to have a lot of FUN making music!

## **2) 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Intermediate Concert Band**

This is our second year band at VVCM. It is a continuation of year one with a focus on understanding and applying new music theory, developing new instrumental techniques, and performing an intermediate level of music selections.

Please refer to the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Beginner Concert Band notes. These notes will continue to apply for your 5<sup>th</sup> grader, including the Music Method Book that we use- *Sound Innovations Book 1* (for your child's instrument)

### **Can my child still join band if they didn't participate in the first year band program?**

YES!:) It's my personal philosophy that all students should have an opportunity to join our band program. With that said, and so that your child can catch up with the rest of the band, I will make some additional suggestions. Please see me or send an email.

### **Can my child switch instruments?**

Yes, although only at the beginning of the new school year. I would strongly recommend two (2) years of study on the same instrument before switching or doubling on a different instrument.

### **3) 6-8<sup>th</sup> Grades Middle School Concert Band**

This is our continued band program for our middle school students at VVCM. There is a strong focus on developing extended music theory and instrument techniques, and taking on much more challenging music selections which may include varying time signatures and/or longer selections of music.

The Middle School Concert Band meets daily (M-F). Our rehearsals begin at 7:25am. All band students are expected to arrive by **7:20am** in order to allow enough time to set up their instrument and place all of their music in order for our daily agenda.

#### **My child has been playing for 2 years now, do they still need to practice daily?**

YES!:) For middle school band students I would actually recommend 30 minutes of home practice time per day. The techniques and music selections will become more challenging as we progress, and these will require more practice time.

#### **Can my child still join band if they didn't participate in the first or second year band program?**

YES!:) Please see me or send an email.

#### **Are there any other items that I will need for the Middle School Concert Band?**

Music Method Book – *Sound Innovations Book 2* (for your child's instrument).

Clarinet and Alto Saxophones will need reeds and cork grease.

Trumpets and Trombones will need valve and/or slide oil.

#### **What if my child plays the piano or the guitar or another instrument that you haven't mentioned, and they still want to participate in the band program?**

Within our concert band, all students that play piano can consider participating in the percussion section. We have a vibraphone, a newly acquired xylophone and orchestral bells that are laid out similar to a piano keyboard, the main difference is that these instruments are played with mallets.

Within our jazz band program, all students that play guitar and piano can consider playing in our rhythm section within our jazz band. Please see the following information below regarding our jazz program.

Lastly, your child may want to try learning to play one of the concert band instruments within our concert band program. Discovering and playing a new instrument in a new setting will open up their music vocabulary and experiences.

### **Where and when do the band students meet?**

All band sectionals and rehearsals are held in the band room - B2

### **VVCM BAND SCHEDULE FOR 2023-2024**

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade Beginner Concert Band** students will have sectional classes two times per week:

Monday- flutes and clarinets

Tuesday- alto saxophones and trumpet

Wednesday- trombones and snare drums

Thursday- flutes and clarinets combined, and alto saxophones

Friday- trumpets and trombones combined, and snare drums

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Intermediate Concert Band** students will have sectional classes one time per week:

Monday- flutes

Tuesday- clarinets

Wednesday- alto saxophones

Thursday- trumpets and trombones combined

Friday- snare drums

**Middle School Concert Band** students will meet Monday through Friday- period 8. Rehearsals begin promptly at 7:25. All students are expected to arrive by **7:20am** in order to allow enough time to set up their instrument and place all of their music in order for our daily agenda.

## **When are concert events held?**

Currently, we have concert events two times per school year.

- a) Our Winter Concert is held in December before our winter break.
- b) Our Spring Concert is typically held in early May.

Specific dates will be forthcoming as we move closer to our concert seasons.

## **As a parent, can I do anything to help?**

YES!:) I can always use the assistance of parents at our dress rehearsals and concerts. Additionally, if you have experience as a music educator or as a professional musician, you can volunteer to assist at a rehearsal or you can speak with me about setting up a classroom presentation. Please note that either of these will require clearance through the school and the school district.

## **4) 6-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Middle School Jazz Band**

There are two requirements in order to join the Middle School Jazz Band.

- 1) A minimum of studying and playing the same instrument for two years.
- 2) Depending on the number of students that interested in joining the jazz band, auditions may be required.

The jazz band meets weekly on Wednesdays from 1:15-2:00pm after school. It is a year-long commitment.

There is one additional music event that will feature the jazz band. It is our Jazz & Dinner Evening which is held in the spring.

Lastly, with help of Amy Morgan, I am currently in the process of creating a website for the VVCM Band Program. I'll keep you posted when we are officially up and running. This will make for easy access to announcements, reminders, and to see what our Amazing Band Students are up to!

I'm here to help, and to pass along the joy of making music to all of our students!:)

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any other questions or concerns.

Email: [acarafone@buckeyeusd.org](mailto:acarafone@buckeyeusd.org)

**Anthony Carafone** is a Veteran Band Director with over 20 years of experience as a music educator. This is his 3<sup>rd</sup> year within the Buckeye School District. His primary school sites include Valley View Charter Montessori and Silva Valley.