

Ockerman Middle School Hawk Band

Beginning Band

“Learn to be a Musician!”

Dear Parent,

The Boone County School District would like to invite your child to take part in the 2019 – 2020 Band Program at **Ockerman Middle School**. Nearly half of the 6th graders play in the band.

Fine Arts education is not only a creative activity; it is a cultural experience for the child. Other benefits of being in the band include: responsibility, hard work, dedication, teamwork, self-confidence and pride. Band students consistently have much higher SAT scores than the state and national average. In a recent study, it was found that 80% of all physicians in America at one time played a musical instrument!

There are several activities that 6th grade students may participate in at O.M.S. Band does not conflict with activities such as athletics or cheerleading because it meets during the school day as a class and most other activities meet after school and are considered extra-curricular. Musical instruction is provided free by the Boone County Public School District, but every child will need to have a musical instrument and a method book with which to study. We recommend that parents **do not** buy an instrument, but rent an instrument. Local reputable music stores rent quality new and used instruments at **low monthly cost** where all the rent applies toward the purchase. You are not obligated to purchase the instrument! Again, we prefer you only rent an instrument the first year. The school provides rental of the more expensive instruments on a very limited basis (tubas, baritones, French horns, etc.); however, playing these instruments is based on suitability, not financial need.

Considering the time it takes to develop good young musicians, students traditionally begin band in the 6th grade. Students who attempt to begin musical instruction in the 7th or 8th grade rarely enjoy success – while trying to “catch up” with their classmates who have a year’s experience. Because of the incredible growth of the Boone County School System, we can only accept 100 – 110 of the over 230 sixth grade students expected to attend Ockerman Middle School this Fall. If your child wishes to take band in the 6th grade, he/she must choose “Beginning Band” as their FIRST CHOICE for their elective when enrolling in the middle school for the

Fall. A parent or guardian must complete and return the attached BAND REGISTRATION form on the back of this packet to their 5th grade teacher or directly to Ockerman Middle School.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions not covered in this packet. We are sure that your child will have a positive and rewarding band experience!

Sincerely,

Terry Wyatt
Band Director – Ockerman Middle School
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Beginning Band Instruments

Here are some general guidelines we use in making the best selection for a student musician. A few of them are listed below to help you in your selection. Remember, there is NO SUCH THING as a “Girls” or “Boys” instrument!

FLUTE (Woodwind Family)

The flute plays the highest notes in the woodwind family and is the only one played by blowing across a hole. The earliest flutes were hollow bones or wood used by cavemen. Today’s flute is made of silver or nickel. The best flute players have a rather flat upper lip with no “tear drop” in the center. Must be rented from a music company.

OBOE (Woodwind Family)

The oboe has two thin flat pieces of wood sewn together (double reed) that goes on the instrument. It is made of either wood or plastic. It has a unique sound and is one of the more challenging instruments in the band. Players must have a good “ear” for music & outstanding academic record. Piano experience is helpful. These instruments are not used in high school marching bands, so double reed players routinely perform in the percussion section in the high school marching band. Must be rented or purchased from a music company.

CLARINET (Woodwind Family)

The clarinet has a single, flat piece of wood (reed) clamped onto a hollow mouthpiece. The instrument itself is made of plastic or wood. It has a remarkable range from low to high and from soft to loud. Must be rented or purchased from a music company. Good for those students who did well with the recorder in elementary school.

Note: Students who are double jointed are NOT good candidates for the clarinet.

SAXOPHONE (Woodwind Family)

A relatively recent invention (1840) compared to the other instruments, the saxophone combines the single reed of the clarinet and the metal (brass) of the brass instruments. Its mellow sounds blend well with both woodwinds or brasses. The saxophone is an important member of the jazz band. Saxophones must be rented or purchased from a music company. Students who are double jointed are NOT good candidates for the saxophone. Enrollment is limited, and we have a “lottery” system to determine who gets to play this instrument.

TRUMPET (Brass Family)

The trumpet, with its high-pitched brilliant tone, is the leader of the brass family. A trumpet player can produce all the notes of the scale by pressing the valves and changing the lip vibration speed. The best trumpet players tend to have smaller sized lips, but this is not a rule. The trumpet is an important member of the jazz band. Must be rented/purchased.

FRENCH HORN (Brass Family)

The French Horn is made from 12-16 feet of brass tubing circled around and around. The tone is very mellow and smooth. In addition to using the lips and valves to change the pitch, the player places a hand in the bell to sometimes give a “muted” effect. Instruments are provided by the school, but very limited availability. Must have a good “ear” for music & an outstanding academic record. Piano experience is helpful.

TROMBONE (Brass Family)

This instrument sounds very brassy like the trumpet, but it makes a lower sound. The player changes tones by sliding one tube in and out of the other, rather than by pressing valves. The trombone is an important member of the jazz band. Must be rented or purchased from a music company.

BARITONE (Brass Family)

Like a mini-tuba, the baritone plays the same notes as the trombone, but has a rounder, smoother sound. Due to its valves, it can play passages of music with more smoothness and ease. Instruments are provided by the school, but limited availability. *Email band director if interested in this instrument.*

TUBA (Brass Family)

The tuba is the largest and the lowest of the band instruments. Its bass voice gives the deep low tones that are the foundation of the band sound. When unwound, a tuba is 20 feet long. Instruments are provided by the school, but very limited availability. We have had female tuba players! You do not have to “hold it”, it sits on the seat of the musician’s chair. We have smaller tubas for beginners as well as some to leave at home for practice – you do not have to carry it on the bus. *Email band director if interested in this instrument.*

PERCUSSION

The Percussion section of the band keeps the beat, builds excitement and adds color to the band sound. A percussionist does not just play drums; he/she plays bells, xylophone, timpani, cymbals, triangle and many other instruments (all school owned). Each member of the percussion section must work together to create the aural illusion of one giant percussion instrument. A 6th grade Percussion Kit must be rented or purchased from a music company. It consists of a practice pad, bells, snare drum sticks, plastic/rubber bell mallets, yarn cymbal/marimba mallets & felt timpani mallets. Enrollment is limited, and we have a “lottery” system to determine who gets to play this instrument.



You can listen to each instrument on-line at: <https://www.mydso.com/dso-kids/learn-and-listen/instruments>



Band Supplies List for 2019 - 2020

ALL STUDENTS: will need to have the following materials **BEFORE** the first day of school:

(Both Wert Music Inc. & Willis Music are local reputable music stores that stock these items)

“Accent on Achievement” method book 1 with CD	\$10.00
Folding Music Stand for home practice	\$13.00

1 ½” or 1” 3-ring binder with 5-10 plastic sheet protectors for concert music & handouts

PERCUSSION STUDENTS: will need to have the following materials **BEFORE** the first day of school:

- 1 pair - General use Timpani mallets
- 1 pair - Yarn Marimba mallets
- 1 pair - Rubber or Plastic Xylophone mallets
- 1 pair – Snare Drum sticks
- 1 Triangle Beater

