

# Join Band!



*We welcome beginners of all ages.*



*Meet Emma, a Bettendorf student who started band in 6<sup>th</sup> grade.*

*By 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Emma was ready to try out for honor band.*

*Emma accomplished this with regular practice and a positive attitude.*

*You can do it too!*



## **Welcome to the Bettendorf Band Program!**

We are excited that you are interested in learning to play an instrument and becoming a part of our group. Being in band is about being part of a team. It is a lot of fun and a great way to make new friends! Playing an instrument also takes commitment and responsibility. It is something to enjoy not only for this school year, but all the way through high school and for the rest of your life!

You may have missed the band sign-up in the fall of 5<sup>th</sup> grade, but don't worry, every year we have older students who successfully begin playing an instrument and join band. There is some "catching up" to do, but with effort and practice you will soon be a part of regular Band rehearsal/class. We want you to have a successful experience and a smooth transition into Band.

Let's get started on our goal, which is to get you playing at the highest level possible as quickly as possible.

Here's the plan:

- First, you need to choose an instrument. We need to meet to try out the different options. ***A parent should be present during the instrument try-outs.*** It's important to pick the right instrument for you. Every person has unique physical characteristics that affect playing; you may be surprised at which instruments you find easier and which instruments you find more difficult to play. At this meeting, we'll discuss how/where to rent/obtain an

instrument. Please email a band director to set up a day/time. It is important that we get started right away, please contact us soon.

- Depending on what grade you are in, there are set benchmarks you need to be able to demonstrate so that we know you are ready to join band. We'll help you set a goal date to complete these benchmarks. If you are not able to demonstrate these benchmarks, you won't be able to join band class until the following quarter. Instead, we will decide when / how to re-evaluate your situation.
- We **STRONGLY** recommend you seek out private lessons. You will be amazed what you will be able to accomplish with individualized instruction. Private lessons will help you reach your benchmarks faster. I have included a list of area teachers I know to be quality instructors.
- Regular practice (at least 15 minutes daily) outside the school day is an absolute necessity!
- Having you jump into the regular Band class right away would be like asking you to join an advanced math course without teaching you basic math first. It's important to get a solid foundation and build the necessary skills first.

We are looking forward to helping you begin your Band career! Please email us and let us know when you are available to try out instruments at school with us.

Sincerely,

5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Ms. Jackson

[ajackson@bettendorf.k12.ia.us](mailto:ajackson@bettendorf.k12.ia.us)

6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Grades

Mrs. Hinds

[shinds@bettendorf.k12.ia.us](mailto:shinds@bettendorf.k12.ia.us)

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grades

Mrs. Youngs

[jyoungs@bettendorf.k12.ia.us](mailto:jyoungs@bettendorf.k12.ia.us)

Name\_\_\_\_\_

## PLAYING GOALS FOR BEGINNING BAND STUDENTS

- You will begin regular Band class when you and your band teacher are satisfied that you have met the goals.

Student consistently demonstrates:

\_\_\_Quality TONE (sound)

\_\_\_correct posture

\_\_\_playing position (holds instrument correctly)

Student Assignment & Teacher Comments:

\_\_\_correct embouchure (mouth posture)

\_\_\_breathing

\_\_\_Correct PITCHES (notes)

\_\_\_correct note names (at least 5 notes)

\_\_\_mini scale #3

\_\_\_Correct RHYTHM (counting/beat)

\_\_\_steady beat (taps toe?)

\_\_\_correct note and rest values (whole, half, quarter, eighth)

\_\_\_Correct MUSICIANSHIP

\_\_\_articulation (tonguing)

\_\_\_dynamics (volume)

You will practice and work on all the songs in the Accent on Achievement Book 1 through page 12 to build your skills. However, here are your songs for mastery: *\*Songs may be passed by playing for your teacher, or by earning 90% or higher on Smart Music.*

\_\_\_AOA #17 Hot Cross Buns

\_\_\_AOA #19 Jingle Bells

\_\_\_AOA #30 Shoo Fly

\_\_\_AOA #34 Bile Them Cabbage Down