

***St. Joseph School***

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September 5th, 2018

Dear Parents and Future Musicians,

I hope that everyone had a safe, restful and happy summer! I have a ton of info for you in this letter, so please read through this carefully; it is going to set us up for an awesome year of band!

As you know our Grade 5 class is getting ready to begin band and we are off to a very quick start. Last June, I mentioned that we would be having a headstart clinic for our beginners. Here are the details (**please note that there are two sessions that each student is asked to attend):**

*Monday, September 10th and Wednesday, September 12, 5:00-6:30pm* at R.I.Baker Middle School. Please drop your student off at the R.I Baker front doors by 4:50. Please pick-up your student at 6:40 at R.I Baker.

The cost of the workshop is $20 per student (this includes both sessions). This can be paid through SchoolCashOnline. This workshop is very, very important for the students so I’m asking everyone to make the effort to attend BOTH sessions. It’s also a lot of fun! There will be professional musicians there to help your child to get off to the best possible start to his/her instrument. This will also give our students a chance to meet their fellow musicians down the street!

Each session will include a short break in the middle so students are asked to bring a snack and a drink.

**Students will need to bring the following each day:**

*All students:*

1. Instruments
2. Books
3. Pencils
4. Snack

*Clarinets and saxes:*

1. Three 2 ½ reeds

*Trumpets and baritone:*

1. Valve oil

*Trombones:*

1. Slide cream, spray bottle.

*Percussion:*

1. Percussion kit (provided by the school)

Included in band fees are 2 reeds (for reed instruments), valve oil, slide cream, and instrument cleaners. If your student should need more supplies, you are able to purchase more at Long and McQuade in Lethbridge or from me at the school. These extra supplies **cannot** be paid through Cashonline.

Some of you may be new to this whole band thing and some of you have experienced this already. Here is some basic information for you:

1. I’ve put together a “care package” for each student. This package includes a pocket folder (with their name on it), a pencil, warm-up booklet, instrument care booklet, and their fingering charts. It is my hope that by setting these up for them, they will understand the importance of keeping all of these things together and bringing them to each class.
2. As with any class, homework is required and this comes in the form of practicing their instrument. Grade 5 students are to practice 70 minutes per week (10 minutes per day) and record it on the practice sheet that they have been given. Each practice session must be **signed** by an adult and then the minutes are totaled and the sheet is handed in during the last class of the week (Thursday, end of day at the latest). Please note that students **DO NOT** have to use the practice sheets that I’ve handed out. If theirs is lost or forgotten, they can use any piece of paper and I’ll accept it as long as it’s signed.
3. Many beginning band students find practicing at home very difficult because that don’t what, how or when to practice. For the “what” to practice, each week I will assign several songs for them to work on. I would like you to encourage your student to practice 7-10 minutes per day over the course of the week. This is SO much more effective than cramming in 70 minutes the night before the practice sheet is due.
4. Finally, I would like to encourage everyone to take a look at ***sjsmusicroom.weebly.com***. Each week, I will post the playing assignments for the students. Also, if there are any handouts that go home (including this one) I will post them so you can download them if necessary. I also post information regarding upcoming events. Practice sheets can be downloaded here too. There is also a “Contact Me” section that you can use to contact me directly with any questions, concerns, or ideas you may have.

I hope this lengthy letter has answered many of your questions but please contact me at the school at 345-3373 if you have any concerns. The permission form for this event is attached. You can either sign it or email me at [bettensonl@holyspirit.ab.ca](mailto:bettensonl@holyspirit.ab.ca) to confirm that your child will be able to attend. Thank you and may God bless you with a happy and musical school year!

I look forward to a great year,

Lisa Bettenson

**Band Headstart Clinic Permission Form**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Yes, my student is allowed to attend the headstart clinic on Monday, September 10th and Wednesday, September 12th at R.I. Baker Middle School from 5:00-6:30pm on both days.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (student name)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (parent signature)