

***St. Joseph School***

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September 4th, 2018

Dear Parents and Grade 6 Band 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! For those of you with students who are new to our St. Joseph School family, you will find a lot of information here that will be helpful.

For our new students we have a very important event coming up. This is a headstart clinic that provides the students with opportunities to work professional musicians on their chosen instrument. I will be working with the new students to find out what instrument that they would like to play. Here are the details of our headstart clinic (please note that there are two sessions that each student is asked to attend and ***THIS IS ONLY FOR THE NEW GRADE SIX STUDENTS***):

*Monday, September 10th and Wednesday, September 12, 5:00-6:30pm* at R.I.Baker Middle School. I will walk with the students to R. I. Baker. Please meet at the front of SJS at 4:45 if you are walking with me.

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 (and for the remainder of the year):**

*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 6 students are to practice 80 minutes per week (~12 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 around 12 minutes per day over the course of the week. This is SO much more effective than cramming in 80 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 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**

(for new Grade 6 students only)

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)

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