

***St. Joseph School***

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September 4th, 2018

Dear Parents and Junior High Musicians,

I hope that everyone had a safe, restful and happy summer! I just wanted to take a moment to give everyone one a refresher on some of the things involved in being in band.

1. 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.

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. JH students are to practice 90 minutes per week (~13 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 13 minutes per day over the course of the week. This is SO much more effective than cramming in 90 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 403-345-3373 if you have any concerns. Thank you and may God bless you with a happy and musical school year!

I look forward to a great year,

Lisa Bettenson