

Berkley School District Fine Arts Options

BAND

If you have attended our concerts at any level, you are aware of the high quality band program in Berkley. Beginning Band is offered twice weekly for 45 minutes. Both Anderson and Norup continue with complete sixth, seventh and eighth grade bands and Berkley High School offers a wider selection of band classes as well.

Beginning students have the following instrument choices:

- Flute
- Oboe (Parents must agree to provide private lessons throughout the 5th grade)
- Clarinet
- Alto Saxophone
- Trumpet (or Cornet)
- French Horn
- Trombone
- Baritone
- Percussion (*Note: Because of the melodic percussion instruments, two years of piano lessons – or the approval of the director – is required if students wish to play percussion*).

We want your child to have a successful year in band; therefore, we invite all beginners to attend fitting night to determine the instrument he/she is best suited to play. Each interested student will be evaluated for teeth structure (including the possibility of future braces), hand size, and student preference. Your child will have the opportunity to actually play the various instruments to determine best tone production. For example, a flute looks easy to play because you just blow into a small hole; however, teeth structure plays a large part in being able to produce a good flute sound.

Based on the above mentioned information, we will then make a recommendation about the instrument we feel would be best for your student and would allow him/her to experience the best results. Having said that, please do not go to a music store and rent an instrument until you have received our recommendations.

Parents are responsible for providing the instrument for your child to play in band. It is not necessary to actually purchase an instrument – most music stores offer a

rental program where new instruments can be rented for the year at a reasonable monthly fee. Some stores also offer insurance for repairs or lost instruments for an additional nominal fee.

100 minutes of practice time at home is required of band students each week. This is in addition to class time at school.

This is another important issue to discuss with your child. A band instrument cannot be played successfully without a minimum of twenty minutes of practice five days a week. Please take into account any extra activities your child is involved in when making your final decision about adding another commitment to his/her schedule.

If you have any other questions (other than specific instrument selections) please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Voight at 248.837.8219.