



Mascoutah 5th Grade Band

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5th Grade Band Update

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Essential Elements Interactive!

Use this [link to access Essential Elements Interactive](#). This will direct you/your student to create an account and then input your student's unique student activation code from the front of their Essential Elements band book to access the digital resources. Please do not have your student use their school email as their email account for this resource. If your student uses their school email and forgets their password/tries to reset their password the security measures put in place by our district will block the email and they will be unable to access their account.

This website is extremely helpful as it includes the digital versions of our exercises, a built in metronome, professional role-model playing along with book exercises, and bonus songs that are constantly being updated to include new popular songs like *Let It Go*, *We Will Rock You*, and *Golden*. *Please note the difficulty level of some of these bonus songs and that we will be working to "level up our band character" to take on these challenges this school year!*

Practice Expectation Reminder & Breakdown

All 5th grade band students are required to practice a minimum of 3 times per week for at least 20 minutes (60 minutes per week). Students should start their practice sessions with a similar warm-up routine that we use in their band sectionals. This currently includes breathing and long tones.

For band practice sessions at home, we have discussed splitting our practice time into 3 different focuses: maintain, improve, and explore.

Maintain: what we did in class and can already do/play.

Improve: develop our new skills or new exercises from band. Can look like counting, sizzling, saying note names outloud, airplaying, and playing. This is where the majority of the practice time is spent.

Explore: new notes in our book, new pages, or different music that may be of interest. Ex: searching on youtube for a favorite theme song on their instrument, listening to a professional on their instrument perform, or exploring what happens when a different key is pressed on their instrument.

Speed Reading & Note ID

This week we started venturing into speed reading. Students were asked to identify the note name on the staff to build our note reading skills. This is an important skill we want to develop similar to reading letters in early elementary school so that we can read and mentally digest full measures (words) or phrases (sentences) later on in our music.

[Treble Clef Link](#)

[Bass Clef Link](#)

What to Practice

Everyone **Maintenance Practice Focuses:**

1. **Page 42 Line 1 & 2** *add a metronome to this exercise*- Count quarter notes out loud and *yell quarter rests inside your head*, play line 1 on one note.
 - a. **Articulation (brass & woodwinds only)** - Play a long steady note and then bring your tongue up to interrupt the air stream behind the top 2 front teeth. (Reed

players- the tongue will touch the reed slightly below the tip of the reed. *Must make contact with the reed.*) Use fast, well supported air and use 50 tastebuds to tongue the roof of the mouth behind top 2 front teeth/on the reed.

- i. **Brass Only** - Sirens on mouthpiece and Lip Slurs for warm up. Start high with tongue in “tee” position then “aaah” followed by “ooooe.” Keep corners of your lips locked in place and space between your back teeth.

Everyone Improve Practice Focuses:

1. Exercises #8, #10, #11, #12
 - a. Say letter names while fingering/sliding/air-play along
 - b. Sizzle and finger/slide to align rhythm of your tongue and fingers/slide/hands
 - c. Play!
2. Speed Reading! See how quickly you can identify your note names with the links below!
 - a. [Treble Clef Reading](#) [flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, horn, percussion]
 - b. [Bass Clef Reading](#) [trombone & euphonium]

Everyone Explore Practice Focuses:

1. Check out Essential Elements Interactive! Play along with a metronome or a different flavor of metronome by navigating the top bar of the window.

Instrument Specific Reminders/Tips

Flute:

1. Place headjoint on the left shoulder and practice switching between E^b & D fingerings, C & D fingerings, and F & E^b fingerings.

Clarinet:

1. Firm corners, cold air, and high/arched tongue are key! Play in front of a mirror with the full clarinet to check and see if your pinkies are hiding behind the body and if your cheeks are puffy.
2. Squeaks or airy notes? Squeeze test all fingers that cover holes and see which circles are not complete. These are the spots where you will be “leaky.”

Saxophone:

1. Practice changing between the following notes: D & C, C & B. Move fingers lightning fast and together.
2. Unfocused air can look like puffy cheeks and a gooselike sound.

Trumpets:

1. You can use [Bandmatetuner.com](https://bandmatetuner.com) chromatic tuner to help with pitch ID. It is a free application for IOS or Android and can be accessed on a web browser.

Horn:

1. You can use [Bandmatetuner.com](https://bandmatetuner.com) chromatic tuner to help with pitch ID. It is a free application for IOS or Android and can be accessed on a web browser.

Trombone:

1. Reminder yourself of your right hand (slide hand) position on the slide bar: use thumb, first finger, second finger. The left hand holds the weight of your trombone with your thumb. "I love you" from sign language.
2. Practice moving your slide from 1st position to 3rd position lightning fast without playing first. *The right wrist should be relaxed to move quickly.*
3. You can also use [Bandmatetuner.com](https://bandmatetuner.com) chromatic tuner to help with pitch ID. It is a free application for IOS or Android and can be accessed on a web browser.

Euphonium:

1. You can also use [Bandmatetuner.com](https://bandmatetuner.com) chromatic tuner to help with pitch ID. It is a free application for IOS or Android and can be accessed on a web browser.

Percussion

Keyboard: Practice saying letter names while striking the key/bar. Don't lose your fulcrum (pivot point on stick/mallet). Use your peripheral vision to see the bars and your hands while looking ahead at the music/exercise you are playing.

Practice Pad: [#1, #2, & #15 from Stone Stick Control handout from class this week](#). Repeat each exercise x20 focusing on striking the same place on your drum/practice pad and moving in a vertical line for your strokes. Do not swipe/glance off the surface.

What day does my student have band next?

MES Specials Next Week will be: Day #5 Day #6 Day #1 & Day #2* *(end of Q1 may impact this date)*

WES Specials Next Week will be: Day #6, Day #1, Day #2 & No Band* *(end of Q1 party on this date)*

SES Specials Next Week will be: Day #6, Day #1 Day #2 & Day #3* *(end of Q1 may impact this date)*

WIN Time will be same as previous weeks excluding Friday and the coming Monday due to no school

MES Specials 10/14-10/17 will be: Day #3, Day #4, Day #5, & Day #6

WES Specials 10/14-10/17 will be: Day #4, Day #5, Day #6, & Day #1

SES Specials 10/14-10/17 will be: Day #4, Day #5, Day #6, & Day #1* *(fun run may impact this date)*

Google Classroom Finally Solved

Google Classroom will only be viewable/accessible in its entirety by the students enrolled in the class. Parents/guardians will receive an email summary of everything added or work that is due, completed, and/or upcoming for your student. Unfortunately, I will not be able to add you as a “student” to see and access the Google Classroom like your students due to the security measures put in place by our technology team that limits the Classroom to only msd19.org emails.

Google Classroom Calendar- I have added each Specials Day # and rotation to the specific campus Google Classroom Calendar through the next few months to help students know what day they are on/when to bring their instruments.

Band Bookmark

This bookmark should be used as a placeholder in their book for what page we are focusing on in class/at-home practice. Additionally, the bookmark includes reminders about our music alphabet, music staff, and rhythm notes/rests. Please encourage your students to use this if they are struggling with remembering their lines and spaces when reading. If your student loses their bookmark and needs another, please do not hesitate to let me know!

Equipment & Materials for Class Reminders

All students need a bag tag/luggage tag for their instrument case. Check with your music store or online.

Students, please keep a pencil in your band folder or instrument case for class each day we meet.

Essential Elements book 1 for Band (Instrument Specific)

Woodwind Specific Materials to be kept in case:

-Instrument Swab

-Pencil

-Clarinet & Saxophone players: Minimum of 2 playable reeds (not chipped/split or warped)

-Cork Grease and/or key oil

Brass Specific Materials to be kept in case:

-Valve oil

-Slide Grease

-Pencil

Percussion Specific Materials to be kept in case:

-Mallets

-Concert Sticks

-Pencil

If you need recommendations for any of the aforementioned items or links, please reach out!

Contact me with any questions:

Mrs. Gore

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