WELCOME TO THE VERGENNES UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BAND!

Hello Students and Families,

Welcome to or welcome back to our 5th Grade Band ensemble at VUES! This year will be full of musical opportunities, performances, and parades!

If you already have an instrument and a red Standard of Excellence Book, great! Make sure your instrument is serviced before assuming that it is playable. You will still need to turn in a band survey with updated contact information. If not, there is some useful information for you below.

Please return the Band Survey and consider renting (to own) a quality instrument for your student. Information about Ellis Music Rentals is also attached (you may keep that page). The school does not have enough instruments to supply everyone in our 4th-5th grade instrumental program with an instrument. If renting is not an option for your family please contact me and we can figure something out. We want to provide all students with an opportunity to play an instrument in the band if they choose to participate, so please don't hesitate to reach out to Mrs. Mugford. Please be wary of buying used instruments online or cheap plastic instruments that will not be repairable or playable.

The band survey lets Mrs. Mugford know who is interested in playing in Band and which instrument they would like to play. Most students get to play their first choice instruments, but sometimes Mrs. Mugford may ask if they could play their second choice instrument so we can balance our band. Please include a valid phone number and email so that Mrs. Mugford can contact you about getting your instrument.

If renting, (after confirming first or second choice instrument) you will need to go on to EllisMusic.com and select the Rent Online Quicklink to fill out their rental forms. You can also call Ellis Music at 802-234-6400 if you have trouble filling out the form.

With their instrument, students will need the Red Enhanced Standard of Excellence Book. These books are instrument specific. They are not all the same. This should be included with your rental, as long as you don't unselect it in the online form. If you choose to purchase the book separately you can buy them on Amazon as well. See the next page—>



Notice that this standard of excellence book is labeled at the top as a Trombone book. If your student plays Flute they will need the Flute book, if they play Clarinet they will need the B flat Clarinet Book, if they play Saxophone they will need the E flat Saxophone Book, Trumpet players will need a B flat Trumpet Book. Percussion players will need the Drums and Mallets and Book.

For ALL:

Students will be asked to practice their instrument for at least 30 minutes per day (4 days or more a week). Students will participate in Playing Assessments to prove instrumental proficiency and preparedness for class and performances. Playing assessments are individual check-ins where students receive feedback to improve their playing. Playing assessments are typically done using a program called SeeSaw- your child will need to use a device at home. If you do not have a device for them to record on, please contact Mrs. Mugford. They can opt to do their playing tests in person instead but it will likely be in front of their peers vs. on their own.

Attached you will find a form meant for planning practicing days. Please fill this out as a family and set up practice times together. Set up a routine and try your best to stick with it! You will also see a basic band schedule attached. Please help to make sure that your student brings their instrument and band folder with their sheet music to school on these days.

We will have 2 concerts and 2 parades to prepare for this year! When students join, we count on them to honor their commitment to band. At the end of the semester (Sept-Jan and Jan-June) they may choose to continue or not. Let's make some music, have fun, become a band team, and show our community what we are capable of! Go Thundercat Musicians!

Please sign below to show that you read this welcome letter and understand your student's responsibility and commitment to this VUES ensemble:

_____(Student)_____(Guardian)

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Mrs. Mugford at hmugford@anwsd.org or 1-802- 877-3761 ext. 5209

