Welcome to Band

Dear Parents,

I am excited for the 2023-2024 school year! Now that band will be underway at Vaughn Elementary School, I wanted to take some time to communicate with you what your child will be experiencing in my classroom this year.

As you know, being in band is a commitment. Being a "band parent" is a commitment as well. If we can work as a team for the benefit of your student, they will become a better musician because of it.

Responsibilities of a band parent:

- Be aware – Your invested interest is going to translate to your students and their investment. By being aware of what days band takes place at school, what we are learning and how they are progressing, your student will go miles further than they would on their own.

- Encourage! – Beginning and even advanced music students need LOTS of cheerleading because instruments can be very difficult and frustrating to young players. The tiniest accomplishment is still an accomplishment that should be recognized!

- Monitor – Students need to PRACTICE! PRACTICE! PRACTICE! Without practice, they will not progress. Because our students' lives are so hectic, they need reminders to practice. Since I can only remind them until 4:10, I need you to help remind them at home. Furthermore, when your child is practicing – keep an ear open, be sure they are practicing for an allotted time and you hear sound throughout their practice time. You may be surprised someday when you can begin to recognize a song! Please help by filling out and signing their practice slips, they will be getting credit for this! Because our class time is limited during the week, I am requiring that they practice for a minimum of 60 minutes a week at home. This may be broken into smaller increments.

- Provide them with what they need – Students need a place that is safe to keep their instrument, they also need a quiet place to practice. It is very beneficial when students

know exactly where they can go to concentrate and practice, it can be as simple as their bedroom. Furthermore, I am doing my best to learn about each one of my students. In the meantime, if there is something they need that they are not receiving, please let me know!

- Keep instruments playable – An instrument that is not in playing condition will create a very frustrated musician! Do not store instruments in cars, or other areas where the temperature is not controlled. Please keep instruments clean. This is not only sanitary, but a dirty instrument WILL make your child sick. Finally, if you think a repair needs to be made, let me know immediately so it can be taken care of.

The students have been working hard in band and I would love to see that eagerness continue throughout the year. With a combined effort, Vaughn School will have the strongest musicians around!

Thank you,

Melissa Werber
Band Director
Email: mwerber@vaughnschool.com
Phone Contact: 406-965-2231