

CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
San Juan Capistrano, California  
**5th Grade Beginning Band Syllabus 2015-2016**

**Contact information:**

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OR leave a message for me at your child's school

**Course Description:**

This is a performance-based class that offers students an opportunity to begin study on a wind instrument. This class is for students who wish to play the flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, and trombone. Standard note reading skills are taught through the use of a band method book as well as supplemental materials. Regular practice is expected and should be a part of each student's daily homework routine. Students will also participate in a variety of performances throughout the school year. Home practice is required for participation in this class.

**Course Expectations:**

- **Commitment**—All music classes are based on a yearly course of study. **Once enrolled, your student will be expected to remain in the band class for the entire year.** Students are expected to bring an instrument, 3-ring binder, music book, and a pencil to school for our twice-weekly music class. (Please see additional sheet regarding recommended supplies for music.) Students will be expected to participate in a variety of concerts possibly including a daytime assembly in December, an evening Area Concert mid-year, and a final evening concert in May.
- **Expectations and Consequences**— All students are expected to bring an instrument and materials to class twice a week as well as maintain the highest standards of self-control, teamwork, and responsibility. Failure to maintain these standards may result in the following consequences:
  - a. A warning
  - b. Time out from the ensemble
  - c. Classroom teacher notification
  - d. Parent notification
  - e. Loss of recess
  - f. Alternative writing assignment
- **Behavior**— All band students are expected to maintain the highest standards of self-control, teamwork, and responsibility. Poor behavior will result in the loss of class participation.
- **Practice**—**Successful music students practice every day. THIS IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT!** Help your child by setting up a consistent daily practice schedule. Twenty minutes of daily practice is a good goal. Instruments should never be left at school overnight. A Home Practice Guide will be provided each trimester, or more frequently, for you to support your child with his/her home practice.
- **Donations**—In order to offset the cost of supplies and maintaining the instruments, a suggested donation of \$50.00 from each family participating in Beginning Band would be greatly appreciated. Donations of any amount are warmly accepted. Please keep in mind that **donations are voluntary and all students will be allowed to participate whether or not a donation is made.\*** Only donations by check are accepted and checks should be made out to "CUSD Elementary Music."

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**Grading** will be based on: (1) performance assessments, (2) monthly Home Performance Charts, (3) Holiday Assembly in December, Area Concert in February/March, and an evening Spring Concert in May/June. The band grade is given to give parents an idea of their child's progress in class. All band students will receive a standards-based grade on their report card in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> trimesters. Grading in the beginning band class will be standards-based, meaning that students will be graded on how well students have met specific benchmarks.

This year in block music, CUSD adopted a *Standards Based Report Card*. Report Cards are a communication tool. Our goal is to provide parents with the clearest possible picture of how students are performing relative to grade level standards. This is an important distinction; students are not being compared to other students. The target remains the same: mastery of grade level standards. This year we switched to a 1, 2, 3, 4 format in place of letter grades to reflect this. There are four achievement marks on the report card:

- 3 = Level of proficiency expected for the trimester
- 2 = Progressing toward trimester expectations
- 1 = Making insufficient progress toward trimester expectations
- 4 = Excelling at trimester expectations

Note that these marks are for trimester expectations. A student's achievement is assessed based on what they have been taught and what they are expected to have achieved in that trimester.

These numbers do not equate to an A,B,C,D,F system because traditional grades are not standards-based. A 3 is **not** a B! Read on...

**3 is the Target!** The most important thing about this marking system is that a 3 is the target – a three means that a student has demonstrated proficiency in that standard. This is to be celebrated! A 3 means your child has met trimester expectations. Your child:

- understands and applies concepts, processes, and skills for grade-level standards
- produces quality work
- demonstrates skilled performance in relation to the California Content Standards
- reveals a solid understanding of subject-area content
- demonstrates grade level knowledge and skills

**2 is a Work in Progress.** Some students may take longer to meet standards. A 2 means that your child is making progress toward trimester expectations. He or she:

- is beginning to understand and apply concepts, processes, and skills for grade-level standards
- produces acceptable work
- has a good initial understanding of California Content Standards
- reveals a basic understanding of subject-area content
- demonstrates acceptable attainment of grade level knowledge and skills

**1 is Cause for Concern:** Some students have a great deal of difficulty meeting grade level standards. A student achieves a 1 if he or she is making insufficient progress toward trimester expectations. If your child achieves a 1 in any of the standards, you and the teacher will want to meet to discuss strategies to help your child be successful.

**4 is Icing on the Cake:** Students may show exceptional strength or understanding in one or more standards. To achieve a 4, a student must consistently demonstrate that he or she:

- deeply understands and applies concepts, processes, and skills for grade-level standards
- produces superior work
- demonstrates exemplary performance in relationship to the California Content Standards
  - reveals a solid understanding of subject-area content

# Welcome to Band!

Your child has expressed an interest in playing in the band class this year.

**Selecting the proper instrument to play will be very important to the success of your child in band. The following information may help in that process.**

The **Flute** is a very popular instrument. It is small and very easy to carry. On a difficulty scale of 1-10 (10 being hardest) the flute is a 9. This instrument is perfect for hard working students who like challenges. Flutes rent for \$15 - \$25 per month.



The **Clarinet** is also a very popular instrument with the students. More students play this instrument than any other. (50% of the band) On a difficulty scale of 1 - 10, the clarinet is a 5. Clarinets do need continual supply of reeds. (Approx. \$1.50 each) Clarinets will rent for \$15 - \$25 per month.

The **Alto Saxophone** is always popular with students. It is very expensive to rent. (\$35 - \$75 per month) This instrument also demands a supply of reeds. The **Tenor Saxophone** is always a nice addition to the band but this, larger cousin of the alto. Larger instruments also are more of a challenge to carry to and from school.

The **Trumpet** is next in line to the clarinet in popularity though it is slightly harder to play. (7 on the scale) Success on this instrument depends upon the student's ability to develop their lip and mouth muscles. Practicing is essential for tone, pitch, and endurance. Rental instruments are \$ 15 - \$ 25 per month.



The **Trombone** is extremely important to the band. It is a bass or low-pitched instrument that adds depth to the overall sound. The trombone (a 6) demands a hard working, sharp student who likes challenges. The rental cost is about \$20- \$30 per month. As with the trumpet, the student's ability to develop their lip and mouth muscles are important and daily practice is essential for success. The demand for this instrument is always great.

**Borrowing Instruments**  
The school district offers a **limited** number of instruments to lend to students for the duration of the school year. If you would like to borrow an instrument from the school district, please fill out the lottery form. School instruments will be distributed by lottery. All loaned instruments are expected to be maintained, and the family will take the responsibility for loss and repairs if damaged under their care.

**Renting Instruments**  
Renting is, by far, the most popular form of acquiring musical instruments. Call ahead for prices and availability. Instruments should be purchased or rented from specialty music shops. A list of local music stores is listed at [www.care-4education.org](http://www.care-4education.org). All instruments should cost approximately \$25 per month to rent with the exception of the alto saxophone (\$40 and up). Some well known brands are Armstrong, Artley, Bach, Blessing Bundy, Buffet, Conn, Gemeinhardt, Holton, King, Olds, Selmer, Unison/Jupiter, Vito, and Yamaha. Look for a 'rent to own' option, and ask

about return policies. Students who use a rental instruments are, because of their parent's investment, more serious about the class. They consistently practice, they don't forget, damage or lose their instrument and take pride in what they have accomplished musically.

**Buying Instruments**  
Some parents feel that it is better to buy a new instrument than to rent or lease. They would rather make an investment with the idea in mind that the instrument can always be sold if the student does not continue on next year. When buying an instrument, the rule of thumb is "**Buy the best you can afford, NOT the cheapest you can find.**" Believe it or not, there are instruments on the market that cannot be played in tune or repaired if broken, and beginning students struggle with these instruments because they have the power to discourage students. Talk with a professional or visit a reputable music store for information. It is better to save your pennies to buy a proper instrument rather than spend your dollars on an improper one. Ask about return policies.

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**Important Dates**  
**\*Week of October 26<sup>th</sup>:**  
Students MUST have Instrument

**\*Winter Day Concerts**  
week of December 14<sup>th</sup>

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.mrwentzel.com](http://www.mrwentzel.com)

## Practicing for Success

As parents, you can stimulate excitement about school by helping your child learn practice techniques. Playing an instrument develops more than musical skills. It also teaches how to plan time and set goals. Create an environment where practicing is easy and enjoyable.

The first few weeks of learning to play a band instrument are especially important. Good practicing habits need to be established at home from the beginning, and a parent (s) can HELP.

Help to set-up the best possible practice facility. The area should be well lit and free from other distractions, and should accommodate a straight chair and music stand (if possible).

Establish a regular time and routine for practice sessions. Students should begin with warm-up exercises, and then move into this week's assignment. Troublesome parts should be isolated and worked out before the entire song is repeated. Students should end the practice session with a few favorites, just for fun! Simply doodling on their instrument is not practicing.

Listen enthusiastically to your child's practicing. Recognize his or her efforts with a comment such as, "I really liked the sound of the low tones on that piece." Remember, you are the audience your child will most appreciate.

Participate in our three-way partnership: parent (s), student, and teacher working together to make band an enjoyable and worthwhile experience. Start by reinforcing your student's practice routine. Acknowledge his or her practice time on their monthly home concert chart. Please sign and grade each week.

Enjoyment in playing a band instrument and a desire to practice come with success; success is the reward of dedicated practice. Together, we can guide your child on the road to those great rewards.

## **Keeping Your Instrument Clean**

### **Flutes**

Using the cleaning rod and a small piece of cloth, wipe out the head joint after every playing. Wipe off the instrument with a soft cloth to remove fingerprints and oil.

### **Clarinet and Saxophone**

Using a swab, clean the inside of the instrument after every playing. Every month wash the mouthpiece in cold soapy water and rinse. Always grease the corks.

### **Brass Instruments**

Keep the valves on the trumpet and the slide on the trombone oiled. All tuning slides need to be greased with slide cream. Once a month, students should soak the trumpet and trombone in warm soapy water and rinse. All students will be instructed in taking the instrument apart for cleaning. **Until that time, students should not try this procedure.**



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# Welcome to Band

To get the most out of this class, it is important that all students come to music with all the materials and get right to work setting up. These lists explain what is needed of the student in each class.

## Recommended Supplies List

- 1. Instrument (or a note from home if you can't bring it)
- 2. Luggage Tag on the case (name, address, phone, classroom teacher, school)
- 3. "Accent on Achievement Band" Book 1
- 4. Music Binder (a three-ring binder)
- 5. Pencil
- 6. Music Stand at home (highly recommended)

## Instrument Supplies

- Flute:** cleaning rod, long thin cloth for rod, soft cloth
- Clarinet/Saxophone:** Extra Reeds (size #2), cork grease, swab
- Trumpet:** Valve Oil, Clean cloth
- Trombone:** Slide oil, a small spray water bottle

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# School District Instrument Lottery—5<sup>th</sup> Grade Band

CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
San Juan Capistrano, California

Dear Parents,

I am pleased to inform you that your child has expressed a desire to become a member of the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Beginning Band Class. Please read the information below regarding instruments for our music class.

- Parents may choose to buy, rent, or use an instrument already owned by the family or friends. A list of some local music stores can be found at [www.care-4education.org](http://www.care-4education.org). If you plan to buy, rent, or use an instrument from family or friends, please fill out the form on the **BACK** of this paper.
- The school district offers a **limited** number of instruments to lend to students for the duration of the school year. If you would like to use an instrument belonging to the school district, please fill out the bottom of this page. Due to the limited number of district instruments available, first or second choices, as well as sizes cannot be guaranteed. Please be advised that all school district instruments will be issued via a lottery, for ALL 5<sup>th</sup> grade band students. Therefore, all instrument requests should be submitted **by Wednesday October 14<sup>th</sup>**.
- **Donations**—In order to offset the cost of supplies and maintaining the instruments, a suggested donation of \$50.00 from each family participating in Beginning Band would be greatly appreciated. Donations of any amount are warmly accepted. Please keep in mind that **donations are voluntary and all students will be allowed to participate whether or not a donation is made.\*** Only donations by check are accepted and checks should be made out to “CUSD Elementary Music.”

Please complete the information below and have your child return it to Mr. Wentzel at our next class meeting. Should you have any questions, please feel free to email me at [kswentzel@capousd.org](mailto:kswentzel@capousd.org). Thank you for your continued support of our music program!

Sincerely,  
Kory Wentzel, Band Director  
[kswentzel@capousd.org](mailto:kswentzel@capousd.org)   [www.mrwentzel.com](http://www.mrwentzel.com)

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-----Please detach and return-----

**“I would like my child to participate in 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Beginning Band this year.”**  
**(Please fill out only ONE side of this paper and PRINT CLEARLY.)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student’s First and Last Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
School

\_\_\_\_\_  
Classroom Teacher

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Best contact phone #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent’s email address

We would like to borrow a district instrument, if possible:

First Choice: FLUTE   CLARINET   TRUMPET   TROMBONE   BARITONE

Second Choice: FLUTE   CLARINET   TRUMPET   TROMBONE   BARITONE

## School District Instrument Lottery—5<sup>th</sup> Grade Band

