



Murrieta Valley Elementary School Band

Lisa J. Mails 🎵 Rail Ranch 🎵 Monte Vista

Welcome to Elementary band! We're going to have a fun and exciting year learning how to play an instrument, how to read music, performing, and building many other skills that you will carry with you for the rest of your life!

Your First Lesson

What you will need:

1. Your **instrument** -- make sure it is in working condition!
2. Your method **book**: *Traditions of Excellence* Book 1
3. A black 3-ring **binder** and plastic page protectors to hold your sheet music
4. A **pencil** for making notes on your music
5. At least 3 reeds for clarinets and saxophones
6. A good attitude!

Expectations & Practice -- What is my "homework" for band?

As band directors with many years behind us of both playing professionally and teaching many students to play, the elementary band teaching staff will guarantee you that you will be a good player if you **practice seriously for at least 30 minutes a day, 5 days a week!** Some students get really excited about their instrument and practice much more than that every day. Those who do will move ahead very rapidly. *Learning to get a good sound out of the instrument is hard work and will be the biggest task you will face during the first couple of weeks.* This can be accomplished with serious practice every day.

- * 30 minutes of practice 5 days a week will be 10 hours total for the month, which will earn you an A on your report card.
- * 30 minutes of practice 7 days a week will be 15 hours total for the month, which will earn you an A+ on your report card and the opportunity to audition for the elementary honor band.
- * Any less than 10 hours of practice a month will significantly stunt your progression on your instrument.

Be sure to record the number of minutes you practice each day in the boxes on your practice calendar. You will receive a calendar at the beginning of each month. At the end of the month turn the calendar sheet in to your band director so you can get credit towards your grade. Please make sure your name is on your calendar sheet and have your parent sign it.

Academic Eligibility -- Will band affect my grades?

Nearly all students are able to fully participate in band with no affect on their academic work. Band students are required to complete all of their regular academic homework in addition to regular practice on their instruments. Since elementary band is a pullout program, all students participating in band must complete any class work that they may miss during their lessons. Band students are encouraged to have a study buddy who can share what was missed and with whom they can get caught up on class work. I will be in constant contact with your child's teacher to ensure that he/she remains in good academic standing. Students who fail to practice or to keep up with their class work may be asked to consider discontinuing participation in the program.

Required Materials

For All Students:

- black 3-ring binder (1") with page protectors
- band method book
- pencil
- music stand (for home use)*
- tuner/metronome*

For Flutes:

- cleaning rod
- silk or cotton swab
- polishing cloth* (optional)

For Clarinets

- 4 reeds, size 2 or 2.5
- silk or cotton swab
- mouth piece swab
- cork grease

For Saxophones

- 4 reeds, size 2 or 2.5
- neck strap
- mouth piece swab
- cleaning swab
- cork grease

For Trumpets

- valve oil
- tuning slide grease
- cleaning cloth* (optional)

For Trombones

- slide cream
- tuning slide grease
- small spray bottle
- cleaning cloth* (optional)

For Percussion

- snare drum & bells, 2.5 octave range
- Vic Firth SD-1 snare sticks
- clear plastic mallets
- 8" drum practice pad* (optional)

*Item recommended but not required

Local Music Stores & Repair Shops

Repairs:

Phil Pike, *The Master Musician*, Murrieta
 •951-677-7575
 Kenneth Rice, *Little Shop of Horns*, Temecula
 •951-694-5564
 Frank Reilly, *Shamrock Music*, Fallbrook
 •714-552-7217

Music and Instrument Supplies:

The Master Musician
 39450 Murrieta Hot Springs Rd
 Suite 228
 Murrieta, CA
 951-677-7575

Pete's Music
 29800 Bradley Road
 Sun City, CA
 951-301-8088

Little Shop of Horns
 27780 Jefferson Ave.
 Temecula, CA
 951-694-5554

Temecula Sounds
 41607 Enterprise Circle N #A
 Temecula, CA
 951-699-3880

Murrieta Academy of Music
 39825 Alta Murrieta, B18
 Murrieta, CA
 951-698-9891

Nick Rail - Redlands
 1770 Orange Tree Lane
 Redlands, CA
 909-798-9998

Please note

*Most music stores offer a beginner instrument maintenance kit for each instrument. Sometimes these kits contain unnecessary items for some instruments. It is more advantageous to purchase **only the individual items listed** at left for your child's instrument. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.*

Method Book -- What do we work out of?

For the 2013-2014 school year all MVUSD elementary band students will be using the new ***Traditions of Excellence Book 1*** by Bruce Pearson and Ryan Nowlin. All students will be required to purchase their own book as they will be using it in every lesson and rehearsal as well as for home practice. Books are available at the local music stores or can be ordered online. Students should have their books no later than their first full band meeting, the week of September 19th.

Concert Dress -- What do we wear to performances?

All band members will be required to purchase a Murrieta Valley Elementary Band t-shirt. The shirt will be worn with *black pants/long black skirt, black socks/nylons, and black shoes for all band performances*. Uniform concert dress promotes camaraderie and the spirit of team work, looks professional, and prepares students for future musical activities that involve uniforms and concert dress attire. The band shirt order form is attached to this packet. *Forms and payment must be submitted together to the front office of your child's school no later than **September 13th, 2013***. Shirts will go home with your child in November.

Important Dates & Calendar -- When are our concerts?

MVUSD elementary band ensembles will have several opportunities to perform throughout the year. A list of band dates including concerts and assemblies is attached to the end of this packet. *Please mark your calendars now as attendance at all performances is mandatory for all band members*. If any changes are made to the current schedule you will be notified in advance via email and a letter sent from your child's school.

Live Music -- How do I learn about music and being a musician?

Concert attendance and active music listening are an important part of your child's music education and can be a fun and rewarding activity for your whole family! Students are highly encouraged to attend live music performances throughout the year, especially student performances within the district at the middle school and high school your child will be attending. Information about concerts and other opportunities to hear live music will be given to students as they arise. *Students may receive extra credit in band by submitting a concert program from a performance he/she has attended.*

Contact

Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time. I am here to help you and your child enjoy his/her band experience and get an excellent music education. As I am at three school sites, email is the best way to get ahold of me: ***kcowan@murrieta.k12.ca.us***

Lisa J. Mails --Room D104; Wednesdays & Fridays
Rail Ranch -- Room 169; Tuesdays & Thursdays
Monte Vista -- Room 36; Mondays & Thursdays

MVUSD Band Dates ~ 2012-2013

- August 13** -- Band Instrument Demos for 5th grade @ Lisa J. Mails MPR, 1:50pm
- August 14** -- Band Instrument Demos for 5th grade @ Rail Ranch MPR, 2:10pm
- August 15** -- Band Instrument Demos for 5th grade @ Monte Vista MPR, 2:15pm
- August 20** -- Band Parent Info Night @ Rail Ranch MPR, 7pm
- August 21** -- Band Parent Info Night @ Lisa J. Mails MPR, 7pm
- August 22** -- Band Parent Info Night @ Monte Vista MPR, 7pm
- August 26** -- Band Lessons begin at ALL schools, according to each school's schedule
- September 13** -- Last day to join band and pay for band t-shirt
- September 16** -- Full Band Rehearsals (ALL BAND students) begin according to each school's schedule
- December 10** -- RR Winter Band Concert Assembly for all 4th and 5th graders, MPR 2pm;
Winter Band Concert @ Rail Ranch MPR, 7pm
- December 11** -- LJM Winter Band Concert Assembly for all 4th and 5th graders in MPR 1:50pm;
Winter Band Concert @ Lisa J Mails MPR, 7pm
- December 12** -- Winter Band Concert Assembly for all 4th and 5th graders, MPR 2pm;
Winter Band Concert @ Monte Vista MPR, 7pm
- January 21-24** -- Honor Band Auditions during regular weekly lesson times.
- February 28** -- Honor Band Rehearsal #1 @ E. Hale Curran Elm. MPR, 9:15-11:30am
- March 11** -- RR Spring Band Assembly for all 4th and 5th graders, MPR 2pm;
Spring Band Concert @ Rail Ranch MPR, 7pm
- March 12** -- LJM Spring Band Assembly for all 4th and 5th graders in MPR, 1:50pm;
Spring Band Concert @ Lisa J Mails MPR, 7pm (tentative)
- March 14** -- Honor Band Rehearsal #2 @ E. Hale Curran Elm. MPR, 9:15-11:15am
- March 20** -- MV Spring Band Assembly for all 4th and 5th graders, MPR 2pm;
Spring Band Concert @ Monte Vista MPR, 7pm
- April 18** -- Honor Band Rehearsal #3 @ E. Hale Curran Elm. MPR, 9:15-11:15am
- April 22** -- Red District Concert @ Murrieta Valley HS Gym; --Honor Band students ONLY*
- April 24** -- Blue District Concert @ VMHS Gym; rehearsal 5:15pm, performance 7pm
- April 28 - May 9 (appx)** -- STATE TESTING ---> lessons only after 11am
- May 17** -- Honor Band Concert @ Mulligan's, warm up 9:30am, performance 10am
- May 29** -- District Elementary Recital @ Monte Vista MPR, 7pm (LJMES, MVES, RRES)
- June 6** -- Last Day of Band Lessons