



Band Notes – September 12, 2022

Dear Band Parents,

Welcome back and welcome to the Edgewood Band Program. I hope that you all had a wonderful (and healthy) summer and you are looking forward to getting back to the rhythm of school.

I am looking forward to beginning this year and making music with your children. I will be communicating with you mostly through email. My email address is cleviatin@scarsdaleschools.org.

Please enjoy a sample of our Edgewood Band video performance projects during our remote learning years. [Imperium](#) [First Chorale](#)

The link below will take you to our Band Schedule where you will be able to make note of your child's lesson days and times. Also, please mark our Concert Dates in your calendar. Participation in these concerts is a fun, rewarding, and very important part of our instrumental music program.

Winter Concert February 1, 2023

Spring Concert May 18, 2023

[Edgewood Band Schedule 2022-2023 \(current as of 9/12\)](#)

Please make sure your child has his/her instrument in good working condition with all necessary accessories (reeds, valve oil, etc.) and music for his/her lesson to maximize learning time. If your instrument is in need of repair (stuck valves, keys leaking air that don't close all the way, etc.) please contact the rental vendor, or, please visit my teacher page for a list of additional music vendors in the area. Most have relatively quick turnaround times.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a few words on the benefits of playing a musical instrument and how you can help your child be successful in his/her musical endeavor.

Your decision to provide your child with quality music instruction is an investment in your child's future. In making it possible for him/her to play an instrument, you are affording the opportunity for self-expression, creativity, independent problem-solving, achievement and life-long learning.

Music participation enhances self-confidence and self-esteem, concentration, problem solving skills, goal setting, and group skills. Numerous studies indicate that parental attitude, support, and involvement are important factors in a student's ability to successfully learn to play and enjoy music.



Musical achievement requires consistent practice over a period of time. The minutes of our group lessons are limited and occur once in a six day cycle. New concepts learned in our lessons and assignments need daily reinforcement through individual practice in order for these skills to be developed. Many students choose to have private lessons to supplement these. This is strongly encouraged as one-to-one specialized instruction for a longer time period with additional frequency is extremely helpful when learning a musical instrument. There are many “specialists” now teaching remotely as well as in person. For recommendations please visit my teacher page and/or send me an email.

Please encourage your child to demonstrate frequently what they have learned in class and encourage your child to talk with you about the music lesson. Obviously, be generous with your praise and offer compliments regularly. You can further help your child by providing an appropriate place to practice, and scheduling a consistent daily time for practice. Recommended minimum practice time is 15 to 20 minutes daily. Your child can create a practice log that may be filled out each week and signed. This is an excellent way to keep track of how much your child is practicing.

During the first several weeks, primary emphasis in beginner classes will be on developing correct playing position, good posture, and proper breathing technique as well as music reading basics. Returning students will review the above, as well as more advanced melodic and rhythmic notation and instrument-specific techniques.

Instrumental progress reports are distributed three times a year, however, please feel free to contact me at any time to discuss questions or concerns you may have.

I also plan to offer “office hours” to occasionally meet with students who would like extra help.

Once again, welcome back, and please feel free to contact me via email with any questions, comments or concerns, and please visit my teacher page for a valuable information resource.

All the best for a wonderful school year,

Connie Leviatin
Band Director