

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 725-7745. You can also e-mail me at sara.weischedel@k12.sd.us



Thank you for supporting your child in his/her musical journey!

Beginning Band

Parent's Guide



to Survival

HMS Band
2017-2018
Sara Weischedel
&
Mr. McDermott

Never fear, help is here!

Many parents think that if they know little or nothing about music, they cannot help their child who is learning a new instrument. Your involvement is key to his/her success. Here are a few things you CAN do, even if your greatest talent is playing the radio:

1. Listen – While this may seem hard to begin with (oh, my ears!) I promise it will get easier. It is important that your student practice the recommended 15 minutes a day to build confidence and coordination. Pretty soon, you'll start to hear music! Try not to make fun of the strange sounds they will produce in the beginning (no, that's not a pet elephant you hear....) and be supportive of what they love to do!
2. Watch – You can check your child's posture while they are practicing. Check to see that their back is straight and they are not "hunched over" at the shoulders. This will allow your student to breath better while playing.

3. Encourage – A good word from you will go a long way. If your child is improving, you will hear it. Let them know you hear it. It will also mean the world to them when you and other family members attend their concerts.
4. Change the Station – Your child should be working on a variety of things from class. If you hear the same thing over and over (and over, and over...) ask him/her what they are working on in class. Chances are, he/she is playing a song already mastered, instead of working on things that are challenging.
5. Brush off the tarnish – After the newness of the instrument wears off, it may take a little motivation to keep at it. See your child through the hills and valleys of progress. Keep them practicing even on days they may not want to and keep them involved. As life gets busy, be sure you are helping your student carve out time for practice EVERYDAY.

Benefits, please?

Learning an instrument is a **lifelong** activity – it should be something that grows and matures with the student. Learning to play an instrument also utilizes higher thinking skills, stretching your child's brain. We hope you will encourage your child throughout middle school and high school so they may have something to carry with them through life.

Did you know?

Each instrument has a unique serial number printed on it – it is truly one of a kind! Please write the serial number here:

And the brand of your instrument here:

Keep this in a safe spot in case the instrument is lost/stolen/damaged and you need to file an insurance claim.