

Dear Anthony Band Families,

Welcome to the 2019-2020 Anthony Band Program! I look forward to meeting you at Open House on Thursday, August 29, 5:00-7:00 pm. There is a band website where you can find great information about the band program. Please take a minute or two to explore it. <https://anthonymiddleschoolband.weebly.com>
You can access this website through the Anthony Middle School main page > Departments > Performing Arts > Linne

Email is the best way to contact me. katy.linne@mps.k12.mn.us

Course Titles and Rotation Day:

If you have been in band before, your band class is named "6th Grade Band" "7th Grade Band".....

If you have not been in band before you are in "Beginning Band". Check you schedule. If you have played in band before and are in a "beginning band" you may want to check in with the school counselor.

We have band every other day. We call this "A DAY BAND" and "B DAY BAND".

First Band Day Details

What do I need? Please have a 1" (or close to that size) binder, with at least 4 sheet protector pages in it, 2 pencils, a box of kleenex or hand sanitizer to donate to the room (optional and can be brought during open house). You do not need your instrument on the first day. Check out the "Frequently Asked Questions" sheet under "about band" on the band webpage.

Where is the band room? Down the hallway (on the courtyard side) from the auditorium. It is between the auditorium and the cafeteria. We are in the building that has a cafeteria, gym, auditorium-- not the super tall side of the school.

Band "TO DO" Items

School Instrument Rental Agreement

Students who have been in band before will get a copy of this on the first day of band. Beginning Band students will get this paper on September 24th or 25th once we select the instrument that you are going to play.

The "Instrument Rental Agreement" is available on the website under "about band".

We ask for a \$50.00 Fee by cash or check to "Anthony Middle School PTA". This money is used for instrument cleaning (which actually costs \$70.00 at the end of the year), instrument repairs (it is always a minimum of \$40.00 each time an instrument goes in for a repair), reeds (\$2.50 each), valve oil (\$4.50 each), neck straps, instrument supports, mallets, sticks, mouthpieces, ligatures, cork grease and more. . You get the idea there is a lot of equipment that needs to be functioning to have a school band.

Percussion players: If you OWN a mallet instrument- bell kit or xylophone AND a practice pad or snare drum your instrument rental fee is \$25.00. If you need to rent all of your equipment from the school, your fee is the same as for the wind players, \$50.00.

Read the Anthony Band Syllabus and complete the Sign-Off Sheet

All students will get this sheet the first class. It is available under "about band" on the band webpage. Due September 9th or 10th.

Get a band binder for your student. One inch is ideal but slightly bigger is certainly okay.

Enter Concert Dates and Times into your Calendar

These are also on the main page of the band website.

7/8th only: September 27th Southwest High School Pep Band invites all Anthony 7/8th grade band students to attend the football game for free and play in with the pep band.

FALL BAND CONCERT for all Anthony Bands
December 12, 2019 at 6:00 pm

WINTER BAND CONCERT-8th Grade Only (concert 7:00-8:30 pm)
Tuesday, January 28, at Southwest HS, 7:00 pm, students report at 6:30 pm to Southwest band room

SPRING BAND CONCERT for all Anthony Bands
May 21, 2020 at 6:00 pm

What will the first day of band be like?

If you like surprises don't read this. If it calms you to know what you are doing in class on the first day, read this.

*Beginning of Class: Come in and sit down in a chair and look at the screen for band information.

*Introductory Activity: Yes we are doing a get to know you activity so I can begin to learn everyone's names. It will likely involve tossing a small ball and saying your name and then the next person's name. Hopefully, not too scary or annoying.

*Music activity: rhythm and steady beat and breathing related

*Talk about the syllabus and try to get you to remember to take it home and get it signed.

*Closure circle: share a positive intention about the year in band, time to look at your schedule, time to say hello to all of your band friends you missed so much over the summer, reminder to bring your instrument to next class

*Dismissal: Everyone must be seated and quiet and I will dismiss you.

What is the basic routine for band for the year, are there things that happen regularly that it would be helpful to understand before we get started?

Practicing is an expectation of band. Students must put into their schedule 4 practice sessions a week. Each for 20 minutes. Many students choose to do this over the weekend. Depending on your rotation days that week it could be Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday or Friday- Monday OR ideally, more spread out through the week. This is a must - it is how you improve and understand how to play your instrument. If you do not practice you will feel aggravated and not enjoy the band rehearsal experience.

Practice Journals: Due every 2 weeks. Students receive the assignment in class and it is on the webpage. Students receive a list of all of the due dates for the year to keep in their binders.

Concerts: It is expected that ALL band students are at all concerts. There are only 2 (6th and 7th grade; 3 for 8th grade) all year! These are super important - plan ahead so you know they are coming.

Jazz Ensemble: We started this last year. It will still be before school. 6th grade on Tuesdays and 7/8th Grade on Wednesdays. We will likely start sometime after MEA.

Parent Volunteers: If you have musical knowledge and would like to help tutor students during band classes please let me know. If you would like to help with concerts or events you are welcome.

For Parents:

Please support your student in this endeavor. Band students create beautiful music, make great friends, learn leadership and self-worth and responsibility within band community. These friendships and skills are attributes that students will enjoy into high school and beyond. Anthony staff and administration support the band program 100% plus. It is truly a wonderful community for your student.

If you would like to drop into the band room, please come in any time!! You are always welcome to any band class any time. You do not need to call ahead and you do not need to stay for the entire class just come in when you can and sit where you would like. You can visit any band class - it doesn't need to be the class that your child attends.

I send out an email each week at Anthony. I will try to send it out on Friday/Saturday. Sometimes it gets pushed to Sunday. It gives a run down of what we are working on in rehearsal and a heads up on any special events going on.

I am thrilled to be here at Anthony Middle School. Our leadership and our teachers are experts in their fields and are kind caring people with a focus on community building. As the saying goes "it takes a village"! I look forward to working with all of you as we enter into another year of new experiences with your child!

Sincerely,
Katy Linne
Anthony Middle School Band Director