

Haines Middle School Band

www.hainesmusic.org

John Blank, Erik Swenson
Band Directors

(630)587-7217
erik.swenson@d303.org
john.blank@d303.org

305 S. 9th St.
St. Charles, IL 60174

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Dear Parents and Students,

We hope you are enjoying your summer. We look forward to a wonderful year full of new exciting times and great music-making. We look forward to getting to know the new students and the incoming 6th graders. This letter contains some specific information about the band program, including some dates to mark on your calendar.

Bring your instruments the first day- We will play!!!!!!!!!!

Books: Please purchase these books before the start of school.

- 6th: Accent on Achievement Book II Alfred Publishing
AND - Note Speller - by Fred Weber, Belwin Publishing/ Warner Bros.
7th: Foundations For Superior Performance by Jeff King and Richard Williams, pub. Kjos
8th: Accent on Achievement Book III Alfred Publishing

Supplies: Clarinet and saxophone players: Please purchase a **new box of Vandoren reeds** so you are ready for the year. Incoming 6th graders should use Vandoren 2 1/2 strength reeds. 7th and 8th graders, buy the strength specified by Mr. Blank or your private teacher. Buying a box at a time is cheaper than one reed at a time and will ensure a supply for several months.

Dates: Band counts in the grade point average. Attendance is **required** for the dates with a * in order to receive a passing grade. Please note that 6th graders only have 2 required concerts where the 7th and 8th grade have 3.

Wed.-Fri. August 19-21	Incoming 6th Grade Band Orientation Session
Saturday, October 3	IMEA Band Auditions @ Rotolo M.S., Batavia
Saturday, October 31	IMEA Jazz Festival @ Traugher J.H.S. Oswego
Thursday, November 5	Fall Jazz Concert Haines Cafeteria 7:00 pm
Saturday, November 7	IMEA Band/Orch. Festival at TBA
*Thursday, November 19	6th,7th,8th Band Concert 8:00 p.m. at Haines
January ?	Tri-Cities Jazz Coffeehouse. Jazz Ensemble with Geneva and Batavia @ Rotolo M.S. Batavia
Saturday, January 23	Jazz Ensemble to IWU Jazz Festival (All Day)
*Thursday, February 18	7th and 8th Bands with STC North Wind Ensemble @ STC North 7:00 pm
Friday, March 12	Band and Orchestra Solo and Ensemble Festival 4-9 pm @ St. Charles North H.S.
Thursday, March 18	Jazz Lab, Jazz Ensemble @STC North with Thompson and North H.S. Jazz Workshop and special guest artist
Thursday, April 29	Jazz Concert 7:30 pm
*Thursday, May 13	6th, 7th and 8th Band Concert 7:30 p.m.

(over)

Extra music groups are available for students to join outside of school. These include several jazz groups, and small chamber ensembles (brass quintet, percussion ensemble, etc.).

Lessons: 6th Graders will receive one 20 minute group lesson per week outside of band.

Private Lessons: Because students do not have in-school lessons after 6th grade, private lessons are highly recommended for students in 7th and 8th grade. We have a recommended private teacher list available. Please contact us.

Sectionals: 7th and 8th graders not taking private lessons have a sectional time to come to once every other week. This is an attempt to cover some of the technical and musical skills that are covered in private lessons. Again, private lessons are highly encouraged as we do not have in-school lessons in 7th and 8th grade. Weekly one-on-one time with an expert on your instrument is the most effective. Contact us for more information.

Communication: We often put something in the weekly *Friday Forecast* and send emails or letters home with important information. Please always feel free to call us with any questions or concerns **587-7217** or email us at **erik.swenson@d303.org** or **john.blank@d303.org**.

Website: We have a Haines Music Department website. We update that with important information including anything that we send home with the students. Please check it out at **www.hainesmusic.org**. We encourage you to visit our website and **sign up for email notification**. This way when the site is updated an email will be sent to keep you informed.

Locks and Lockers: Students who play oboe, clarinet, trumpet, and alto saxophone will be assigned a locker to keep their instrument in during the day. **We highly encourage students to purchase a lock to ensure that their instrument is safe.** Please remember that all locks used at Haines **must be purchased from the Haines front office.**

Sincerely,

Erik Swenson

John Blank