

HELPING YOUR CHILD SUCCEED IN BAND

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Parental/guardian involvement and guidance are critical to a student's education, especially with beginning band. There are many things that parents/guardians can do to help ensure success with the beginning band student.

HOW YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD LEARN:

- Provide a quiet environment, music stand, and proper chair for your child to practice.
- Schedule a consistent daily time for practice.
- Remain nearby during practice times to encourage and support.
- Praise your child's efforts and achievements regularly.
- Encourage your child to play for family and friends.
- Try to provide tutoring by an accomplished musician.
- Attend concerts and recitals with your child, encouraging him or her to experience a wide variety of music.
- Engage your child in conversations about music.
- Keep your child's instrument in working condition.
- Encourage your child to play any types of music, not just study material.
- Help your child build a personal home library of recordings of sheet music.
- Encourage your child to make at least a two-year commitment to band.
- Show constant interest in your child's progress and their band activities.
- Show support by attending band functions and concerts.
- Talk with the band director on a regular basis about your child's progress.

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CHILD LOSES INTEREST:

Occasionally, students will become frustrated with progress on their instrument, especially when the newness ends. It is important to help your child through these situations.

- Discuss the situation with your child to determine why his or her interest is declining.
- Talk with your child's band director to see what might be done to stimulate interest.
- Encourage your child to continue for a specified length of time.
- Offer increased enthusiasm and support.
- Find new sources of inspiration such as live musical theater performances, different artists' recordings, and concerts that feature your child's instrument.
- Attend band festivals, college band performances, and community band and symphony orchestra concerts and allow your child to project his or her possible future musical experiences.
- Seek advice from parents of other band members.
- Start a family band and schedule regular jam sessions.
- Find an older student mentor for support and musical interaction.
- Take your child to see a favorite movie, discuss the role of the music, and purchase a recording of the soundtrack for further family enjoyment.
- Host a band party!
- As a last resort, discuss the possibility of switching to another instrument or music class with your child's director.