



# Helena Middle School Band 2021-22



August 30, 2021

Hello 7th and 8th Grade Band Families,

Welcome back to the Band Program at Helena Middle School! I am looking forward to embarking on an exciting musical journey together this year. Frankly, this year still starts with many uncertainties and unknowns, similar to last year, but we will remain resilient and continue improving in our classroom. Know that I will be giving your students 100% of my effort to give them the best possible music education throughout the school year.

All students who are signed up for band will need an instrument for the 2021-22 school year. Instruments are not provided by the school (except for baritone and tuba) and must be provided by families. Instruments are available to rent or purchase from your local music store – Piccolo's Music on 11th Ave, also the school has a limited number of school instruments that are available for rent on a need basis. All required equipment will be available at Piccolo's Music. If you rented from the school last year, please call me with questions, concerns or to reserve a rental instrument. Instrument Use Contracts can be found on my teacher website and will be available for your students to pick up the first week of school.

All students will be required to have their own copy, respective to their instrument, of the band method book – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade students will continue with Essential Elements Book 1 and after the first semester we will move to Book 2, which is available at Piccolo's Music. 8th grade students have already purchased Essential Elements Book 2 last year, but will need one they don't have one. Please be sure that your student's full name is clearly marked on the outside of your instrument case and on the front cover of your book. I also recommend that you invest in a folding music stand for home, so proper posture and hand position can be used when practicing.

Home practice is as important to band students as is class time at school for it is during daily practice that muscle development, music reading skills and coordination occur which in turn leads to improved tone and technique. I recommend a minimum of 20 minutes daily for adequate development and to prepare assignments. This is band "Homework"!!

I am happy to try to answer any questions am available at 324-1026. Please leave a message and I will return your call promptly.

Sincerely,

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324-1026