

New Diana Eagle Band

August 9, 2023

Dear Parent,

Congratulations on your decision to have your child become a part of the Eagle Band. It will give them the opportunity to gain a lifetime advantage of musical training, as well as friendships, band trips, exciting concerts, and an important place at football games, assemblies and special events.

All of the beginning students have been evaluated for an instrument on the following criteria.

1. General size and build of the student.
 2. Size of the hands and fingertips: students with very thin fingertips cannot correctly cover the tone holes of the clarinet.
 3. Size of the mouth and structure of the lips: a large protruding “cupid’s bow” makes flute playing difficult.
 4. Very heavy mouth and lip structure is better suited to larger brass instruments.
 5. Physical malfunction of the epiglottis or a cleft palate are complicating factors on a wind instrument and must be diagnosed on an individual basis.
5. Immediate plans for dental braces.

In order to maintain the proper instrumentation for the band program, the band directors must control the number of students starting on each instrument. The success of the total band program is all based upon correct decisions at this stage. Both parents and students must understand the importance of controlling the instrumentation. For this reason, certain instruments will be limited. The band directors will determine who will be best suited for each instrument by music aptitude scores, school grades, director evaluations and physical factors.

New Diana I.S.D. only provides a limited number of baritones and tubas for student use. Parents must provide instruments for flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, cornet/trumpet, trombone and percussion.

We would like for the students to have an instrument by August 21.

If interested, Tatum Music of Longview will have a new Instrument Display in the band hall from 4pm to 6pm on August 10th. It is come and go at your convenience.

Purchasing an Instrument

When purchasing an instrument for band, new instruments provide your child with a better opportunity for success than used instruments. Local music stores now have “rent to own” financing programs to help parents with this important purchase. Local music stores may also have rental returns. These are instruments that have been rented out and returned back to the store where they are cleaned and repaired for resale. They are offered to customers at a discount. Used instruments are acceptable and can be purchased at a reduced price as well. Be aware that in many cases, used instruments may need costly repair in order for them to function properly. When purchasing a used instrument from an individual or a source other than a reputable music store, please follow the guidelines below and have a director or certified instrument repair technician check it out if at all possible. Be wary of inexpensive instruments at department stores. In most cases, these instruments cannot be repaired and do not hold up to the rigorous demands of a middle school student.

Instruments purchased for the students should be of the major brands which are listed below. Other brands need approval from a band director.

FLUTES - Yamaha, Artley, Gemeinhardt, Selmer, Bundy

CLARINETS – Buffet, Selmer, Selmer Signet, Yamaha, Noblet (Clarinets should be made of wood)

ALTO SAXOPHONE – Yamaha, Buffet, Buffet Evette, Bundy, Conn, King

TRUMPET/CORNET – Conn, Bach, King, Holton, Yamaha

TROMBONE – Conn, Bach, King, Holton, Yamaha

PERCUSSION – Ludwig, Pearl, Premier, Rogers, Gretsch, Musser, Yamaha
(Percussionist will need the snare drum kit, the bell kit, and a mallet bag with mallets for snare drum, bells, xylophone, marimba, and timpani)

All students are expected to keep their instruments in good playing condition throughout the year.

Clarinets and alto saxophones are to have at least two good reeds at all times. They are to supply a reed holder to keep them in. At the beginning of school we will be using LaVoz Medium reeds, and may switch to a harder reed at a later time (depending upon the student). Clarinets need a swab and cork grease for their instruments.

Brass players need valve oil or slide oil and tuning slide grease. (Holton and Selmer are good brands) These students will need a soft cloth to wipe off the horn after playing.

The directors keep a limited amount of supplies for students to purchase at the band hall. Purchases should be made prior to or after instruction time.

Students playing school instruments (baritone & tuba) must furnish their own mouthpieces and supplies. Tuba players will need a Bach 24AW mouthpiece; baritone players will need a Bach 61/2 AL mouthpiece.

Grading Policy for Beginner Band

Beginner band students will not only learn techniques for playing a band instrument but will also learn the lifelong skills of responsibility, dependability, self-discipline and teamwork.

Beginner band students will be given a grade of **0 – 100** on their report card based on the following criteria.

1. Instrumental techniques learned in class.
2. Preparedness for class. (Student has prepared assignments at home and brings instrument daily with all supplies & materials needed for class.)
3. Weekly playing or chair placement tests.
4. Weekly Practice records
5. Attendance at required activities.
6. Citizenship

We will do our best to keep parents informed by phone or email but most of the time the report card will be our primary means to communicate your child's progress.

Please feel free to contact the band directors at any time. 903-663-8000 ext. 1702 or 1703.

Performances and Trips

Beginning band students will not be required to stay after school for extra rehearsals or practices. However, they will have two major performances that they are required to attend. They will perform a Christmas Concert and a Spring Concert. Band is a co-curricular class and these performances are an extension of the classroom instruction. They will be counted as a grade in band.

Examples of voluntary activities that may take place are:

- ★ Private lessons
- ★ Solo and ensemble competition
- ★ End of year reward trip

The end of year trip has traditionally been to Grand Slam in Tyler. **This trip is a reward for the students that have kept a good standing in beginner band and attended all required activities.**

Absences will be classified as excused for the following reasons ONLY:

- Student's personal illness – must be documented
- Death in the family
- School-related conflicts cleared by the director PRIOR to the absence
- Extreme circumstances (Band Director approval)

If there is an emergency and a band student is unable to attend a required activity, it is the responsibility of the student to contact one of the band directors before the activity or as soon as possible.

Band Hall Rules

- Abide by all school rules, codes, and policies as established by the New Diana Independent School District, Board of Trustees, and school officials.
- All students are expected to conduct themselves properly at all times. Display of profanity, temper, flagrant violation of band rules/school rules will not be tolerated. **Individual behavior is a reflection of the entire band.**
- Restrooms and drinking fountain are not to be used without permission.
- Stay out of office, practice rooms, and instrument storage rooms without permission.
- Music stands are provided for music; **DO NOT** use as a table; **DO NOT** lean on or play with stands.
- No food or drink in the band hall without permission.
- Do not run or play in the band hall, and at all times have respect for equipment and property. Students will not deface or mark on music stands, walls, etc.
- **DO NOT** play any instrument other than your own unless it has been approved by the director. Students will not touch, handle, borrow, or use anyone else's instrument, uniform, or personal belongings.
- Be on time and present for all rehearsals and performances.
- Be in your proper seat with instrument and music and any other items needed for the rehearsal when the tardy bell sounds.
- Pay close attention in class and **DO NOT** talk without permission. Students should ask for permission to speak by raising the hand and waiting to be acknowledged. All rehearsals are expected to be extremely quiet so that our time will be utilized wisely.
- Put your instrument in the proper slot in the instrument storage room. **DO NOT** put instruments on the floor.
- Keep up with your own music. It is your responsibility to come to class with your own music and supplies.
- **ALWAYS DO YOUR VERY BEST JOB.** A 1st division band has 1st division band students.
- Do **NOT** write or draw on the chalkboard without permission.
- Do **NOT** get out of your seat without permission unless it is an emergency.
- Students will follow band director's instructions.
- Any behavior, which is not representative of good citizenship, as perceived by the band director or staff, may result in the student's dismissal from the activity at hand as well as the band program. This also applies to the actions of student leaders in both public and private events.

ANY STUDENT MAY BE DISMISSED FROM THE BAND BECAUSE OF LACK OF COOPERATION, REFUSAL TO CONFORM TO RULES AND REGULATIONS OR HAVING A GENERALLY POOR ATTITUDE.

Supplies and Fees

Supplies

The band directors have supplies for sale in the band office. IOU's are accepted, however all debts must be paid by the end of each month. All reeds, oils, cork grease etc. will be \$5.00.

Percussion Fee

We will make a group order for percussionist that includes all the necessary items they will need. The cost will be \$100. This will include a percussion bag, sticks, xylophone mallets, practice pad and books. Cash or check is accepted. Please make checks payable to ND Band.

Baritone/Tuba/French Horn Mouthpieces

We will make a group order for baritone and tuba mouthpieces in an attempt to save parents some expense. Baritone mouthpieces will cost \$40. Tuba & French Horn mouthpieces will cost \$75. Cash or check is accepted. Please make checks payable to ND Band.

Books

Each student will need an Essential Elements beginner band book. The cost is \$10. Cash or check is accepted. Please make checks payable to ND Band.

Band T-Shirt

Students will need a New Diana Band T-Shirt. The cost of this is \$15. Cash or check is accepted. Please make checks payable to ND Band.