



Welcome to the Dodgen Band!!!



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Dear 6th Grade Band Parents and Students,

We are extremely excited that you and your child have decided to join the Dodgen Band Family! The first few weeks of Band class are crucial in building a strong foundation for your child's success in learning his / her instrument. It will require some patience and lots of encouragement from home as we learn new playing skills, reading music, classroom procedures and how to work together as a team to achieve all of our goals.

Here is what to expect for the next few days of band classes:

- **Wednesday - Friday, 8/7 - 8/9** – Students will be working with Mr. Westphal on essential band skills and procedures while Mr. Jeffres meets with every student individually to determine which instrument is the best fit for long term success. We also have a sign-up for students to be evaluated in the morning before school, which helps us finish faster. Visit www.dodgenband.org to sign up for a morning slot!
- Once your child's instrument selection is finalized with Mr. Jeffres, you will receive a **Final Instrument Selection Form** to take with you to the music store of your choice to rent or buy your instrument and / or supplies. This form will tell you exactly what supplies you will need to obtain including the band book called Essential Elements. (Euphoniums, Tubas and a limited number of Clarinets can be checked out from the school but you will still need to purchase the band book and some supplies.)
- Accompanying the Final Instrument Selection Form will be a packet of information from local instrument dealers. Most of them offer excellent deals for beginning band students!
- **Important:** *To avoid unintended damage, please help your child resist the temptation to DO ANYTHING with his / her instrument until we go over proper care and handling on the week of August 12th ☺.*
- **Monday, 8/12** – All students bring band instruments to class for the first time!!!
- **Instruments should not be taken home until students have learned and demonstrated proper assembly, holding position, and basic tone production.** This should take 1-3 weeks, depending on the student.

In order to get the year started smoothly, please visit www.dodgenband.org and complete the following items by Friday, August 16th. We regularly use the website to communicate with all band families and spread the word about their great accomplishments. All paperwork can be found on the **Forms** page:

- Read the [Band Handbook](#) and [Syllabus](#). Sign up for [Remind Text Messages](#), if desired.
- Complete the [Handbook and Syllabus Confirmation](#) form.
- Order a [band polo shirt](#) (required) and a [band T-shirt](#) (optional) through the Dodgen PTSA Membership Toolkit at www.dodgenptsa.org. The order form becomes active on August 8th.
- Sign up for [Edmodo](#). The registration code is **rbi9q9**

Remember, as with all things in life; the more you give, the more you get. As we begin making those first sounds, be patient and encourage your child to get in the habit of playing his / her instrument at home regularly so you too can share in the excitement as his / her tone improves and skills progress. Your patience and encouragement will be rewarded with beautiful music before you know it!

Again, welcome to the Dodgen Band Family! John Jeffres & Brian Westphal, Directors