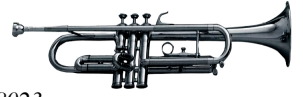


Fort Calhoun Pioneer Band



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Two Announcements/Confirmations:

- 1) ALL Elementary Band Students/Parents: This is to confirm that the Holiday performance for the 5th and 6th Grade Band students will remain in the same format as last year, but with an earlier calendar date. MORE CONCERT INFORMATION ON THE BACK SIDE.

Elementary Band Holiday Performance, TUESDAY, December 10, 7:00 p.m. at the high school.

- 2) 5th Grade Band Students/Parents: Unfortunately, **after school EXTRA HELP sessions are finished.** Many have been enthusiastically taking advantage of the sessions. We've had a good time and got some extra playing time in. I would love to be able to go a little longer, but unfortunately I need to turn all my time and attention after school to the high school side, as November is "audition month" for the senior high students. Nearly all their auditions for various 2nd semester events are due in the next few weeks in a month that already comes with several interruptions.

A FEW GENERAL NOTES...

- a) 6th Grade Band... All the students have plenty of material to practice. Everybody has a packet of technical exercises that alone would keep them busy for quite a while. In addition, for our December performance they should be working on: 1) several of the songs from the holiday season packet, including specifically WHITE CHRISTMAS, RUDOLPH THE RED NOSED REINDEER, JINGLE BELLS (the long packet version), and others; 2) the two band arrangements: SANTA'S ROCKIN' HOLIDAY MIX and the fun SANTA THE BARBARIAN; plus 3) the two or three songs they will play together with the 5th graders.
- b) 5th Grade Band... ONE: Continue to use and review the video coaching guides available on the Habits Universal website. The websites also contain for EACH exercise in the book...a video demonstration of how to play the exercise demonstrated by a professional player, along with an accompaniment soundtrack. The speed can even be altered if they have trouble keeping up. TWO: Make sure the first 5 notes on pages 3-5 are learned and memorized, along with those basic review exercises. THREE: Work on the songs introduced on pages 6, 7, and 8. FOUR: Work on the scale (concert Bb) comprised of the 8 notes we marked in their fingering charts (back of the book). The scale is also written out in exercise #86 in the book. FIVE: They will be receiving a packet of unison holiday season songs. For our December performance they will specifically be wanting to work on JINGLE BELLS (short version—separate handout), UP ON THE HOusetop, and possibly one more.
- c) The two best things you can do for your student to help their progress through the first FIVE years of band... 1) Encourage them to take a solo to every contest that is available, and then get appropriate help to get it learned carefully. 2) Consider private lessons, if possible. Every student has unique playing issues and unique potential that can't be significantly addressed in a full class rehearsal. The District is no longer providing this service on a weekly basis at any level.

"Pioneer" Band: A Tradition of Quality, Class, and Pride.

PAGE TWO....

FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADE BAND HOLIDAY SEASON PERFORMANCE...

To all 5th and 6th Grade Band Members and Parents:

One of the best motivational tools for the students to push themselves and further develop their skills is an impending public performance. We also use these events as a chance for assessment of where we are at that point in time in our progression as musicians.

At this point in the year, the Elementary Bands really don't have enough material to present what we might bill as a "major concert" but we tried a different format a few years ago and many thought it worked better than our previous format and gives more focus to the actual band performance. So we will continue with that game plan and think of it in terms of presenting a "mini-concert."

Here is the plan...

The 5th and 6th Grade Band classes will present a "mini-concert" on Tuesday evening, December 10, at 7:00 p.m. at the HIGH SCHOOL. The 6th grade will present the bulk of the program material, as they usually do. The finale of the concert will be the debut of the new 5th grade class, who will perform a few numbers both by themselves and then combined with the 6th graders.

The concert will be relatively short, but as with all band performances, there is always a certain amount of "prep time" needed before the concert to set up, warm up, tune their horns, etc. **Students will need to report to the HIGH SCHOOL by 6:30 p.m.**

All Band students are expected to be present for class performances. Students should dress up a bit. Dressing up helps set the performance up as a "special event and time" at which we have to play our very best.

We are tentatively planning an informal Q & A session immediately after the performance for any questions anyone may have concerning Elementary band.

This should be a fun little program which enables us to hear the progress these young players are making. We look forward to seeing you on December 10. Until then, enjoy the upcoming holiday seasons!

Mr. Mark Jones