

2022/2023 Oconto Band News

5th Grade Band and Choir Returns!

The Oconto Music Department is excited to announce the return of 5th grade band and choir in place of the General Music course. This means that all incoming 5th grade students for the 2022/2023 school year will choose either band, choir, or both to take for a minimum of one quarter. All incoming 5th grade students who are interested in doing band in the Fall of 2022 must attend one of the information and rental meetings being held on **Monday May 23rd at 5 pm** or **Wednesday May 25th at 5 pm** in the OMS band room. At least one parent or guardian must be present as well. Students will get to try out different instruments and choose which one they would like to play at these meetings.

***Students who qualify for free and reduced lunch will be eligible for using a school instrument.*

Incoming 6th Grade band:

All 6th graders are required to take at least one quarter of either band, choir, or both by the state. Since it will also be the beginning band year for our 6th graders, all 6th graders who would like to do band in the Fall of 2022 will also need to attend one of the rental and information meetings being held on **Monday May 23rd at 5 pm** or **Wednesday May 25th at 5 pm** in the OMS band room. At least one parent or guardian must be present as well. Instrument fittings are being completed during their general music class time this semester, so I will already have a recorded instrument choice for each student at the time of the meetings.

***Students who qualify for free and reduced lunch will be eligible for using a school instrument.*

Strongly Advised Summer Dates:

*****Please note that band is no longer a part of summer school. Read below for information on advised lesson hours throughout the summer.***

Beginner Band (5th and 6th grade)

It is heavily advised that all students enrolled (or planning to enroll) in 5th or 6th grade band for the Fall of 2022 complete **8 hours** of summer band lessons before the start of the school year. Beginning band can be very chaotic and challenging to operate with more than 25 kids at a time. When students come in with their 8 hours of lessons, they know how to put their instrument together, make appropriate sounds, and use their books properly. This is absolutely crucial to starting off correctly. Should students decide to forgo the summer lesson hours, they

may find that they feel behind and overwhelmed at the start of the school year. In order to eliminate this possibility, all students should plan for the summer hours.

7th and 8th Grade Band:

It is so important to keep your instrument skills fresh and to strive to be developing your sound. The first sounds we make as a band in the Fall are always the most surprising and most telling of what kind of work we put in over the summer. Let's make it a goal to start off on the right foot by staying polished with **5 hours** of summer lessons before the start of the year.

High School Band:

Once we kick off the fall semester, there is not much time to breathe before we are in the stands playing pep band in front of the whole community. This is something that has always been stressful and overwhelming for our incoming freshman and upperclassmen alike. It is a big transition from middle school band to high school band and the initial responsibility can be daunting. I strongly encourage all incoming freshman (and upperclassmen) to complete at least **8 hours** of summer lessons before the start of our Fall 2022 semester. In that time we will cover our pep band tunes, technique, and basic marching skills. All of these components will be used within your very first month at the high school. Make it a point to face them head on!

There will be a year kickoff meeting for the high school band students and at least one parent or guardian on Thursday, August 25th at 5:30 pm in the high school band room.

Dates and Times:

Mrs. Hayes will be present for all of the dates and times listed below. Choose to show up to one, two, or all of them! No amount is too big or too small. I just ask that you observe the times set aside for specific groups. **All lessons will be held in the high school band room to avoid construction at the middle school.**

Tuesday, July 12th:

9 am - 10 am High School Band
10 am - 11 am 7th/8th grade band
12 pm - 1 pm (6th grade band)
1 pm - 2 pm (5th grade band)

Tuesday, August 2nd:

9 am - 10 am High School Band
10 am - 11 am 7th/8th grade band
12 pm - 1 pm (6th grade band)
1 pm - 2 pm (5th grade band)

August 15th - 18th

Monday - Thursday Schedule

9 am - 10 am High School Band
10 am - 11 am 7th/8th grade band
12 pm - 1 pm (6th grade band)
1 pm - 2 pm (5th grade band)

August 22nd - 25th

Monday - Thursday Schedule

9 am - 10 am High School Band
10 am - 11 am 7th/8th grade band
12 pm - 1 pm 6th grade band
1 pm - 2 pm 5th grade band