



Owen Valley Patriot Band and Guard

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**2019 ISSMA All Band
Award Recipient**

**2018 ISSMA Marching
Band State Finalist**

**2018 Winter Percussion
State Finalist - 5th place**

**2018 Winter Guard State
Finalist - 3rd place**

Concert Band

Marching Band

Pep Band

Jazz Band

Winter Guard

August 5th, 2020

New Owen Valley Band Students and Families,

Both Mr. Russell and I would like to say hello and welcome you into our band family here at Owen Valley. We are extremely excited to get this school year rolling and to have the opportunity to teach a new group of excited young students. I would like to explain a little bit of what the process will look like going forward for you and your students!

Recruitment/Instrument Demos

This spring the marching band had the opportunity to perform at each of the four elementary schools to show students some of the cool things they could do in the band program. In a normal year when school isn't shut down, Mr. Russell and I would have come back to the elementary buildings to do instrument "testing". These aren't actual tests, but are us letting students try out playing on different instruments and then giving them a "grade" based on how well we think they would do on each instrument. We would then show you the recommendations and students would be able to pick their instrument. We are going to begin that process this week.

Choosing an Instrument

Students will have the opportunity to choose the instrument they would like to play. Once they make that decision, you as a family will then be given two main options. You may get an instrument through Paige's Music shop or through the school. It is also ok to use a family instrument or to purchase one through other means, but we ask that you please check with us before you purchase an instrument!

Paige's Music

Paige's Music Shop helps supply us and surrounding districts with instruments, accessories, repairs, etc. They visit our building every Tuesday to either drop things off like personal orders or pick things up that need to be repaired. They have a "Rent to Own" program where families can pay monthly to have their own brand new instrument. While you are paying for the instrument, repairs are free! An additional educational benefit is that students take better care of their instrument and are more likely to practice more when it is "theirs". Pricing info on these instruments will be send home with students during the first two weeks of school. The instrument choices for Paige's are:

Flute, Clarinet, Alto Sax, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Baritone and Percussion (mallet/snare kit)

Owen Valley Rental

We have a select number of instruments that can be rented through the school for the year. The cost is \$50 (or \$25 each semester) which goes directly towards instrument maintenance and upkeep. The instrument options for this choice are limited to:
Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, Trombone and Percussion (mallet/snare)

All Band Meeting

We will be hosting a band meeting on September 10th at either the MS or HS. This meeting will have plenty of info on the band program itself, including what band would look like in high school should you choose to continue (we hope you will!). Again in a traditional year we would have had a meeting with just new band students and families in May to explain a lot of this in person, but due to Covid we were unable to hold any such meetings or recruit students to be in band.

Syllabus/Calendar

On the first day of school we sent home a calendar with information about the class and some of the performances that will occur. The main two for beginning band are the fall and spring concerts. Students will need to order an Owen Valley Band Polo which they can wear in both 7th and 8th grade. These polos are black and embroidered with an "OV" in cursive and your child's name. We will be sending home an order form in the next few weeks.

Remind

We heavily recommend signing up for our Remind service as well. It is a text/app based platform where you can receive updates that only the directors send out to you. Examples would include if there is a form due soon, upcoming concert/fundraisers, etc. These messages are normally pretty limited and are not sent out very often, but are an extremely effective way to pass along information that may not get home with your student. Information on joining can be found in the syllabus. We will also try to keep our website updated with as many letters and documents as possible.
(ovband.org)

We look forward to what will hopefully be an exciting and fun school year for your students! Learning a new instrument can be a little challenging at times, but the rewards are fun and endless! If you ever have any questions, please email either of us!

Thank you very much!
Mr. Cramer