



L.A. AINGER COUGAR BAND

A Letter from the Band Director

Welcome, *and welcome back*, to the L.A. Ainger Band Program! My name is Tim Ostrow and I am looking forward to my 18th year teaching at LAMS! This year Ainger will be hosting two beginning bands, an intermediate band, an advanced band, a 7th and 8th grade percussion ensemble and a 7th and 8th grade jazz band. Returning students were placed in their classes based on instrumentation (balance of instruments), student performance, and attendance. Returning students were individually consulted with parent signature regarding their placement before they left for the summer.

For the first week of school, here is what you need to do for Band:

- 1) Please review the band handbook and complete the form online.
 - This will be reviewed in class and is a graded assignment due Friday, August 23rd.
 - ✓ All students are asked to do this each year so that we have updated information.
 - To complete the online handbook, please scan the QR code to the right.
 - ✓ If you would like a printed copy with a form to turn in, please have your child request one from Mr. Ostrow.
- 2) All parents are invited to our annual FREE Parent Pizza Social in the cafeteria on Thursday, August 22nd beginning at 6pm in the cafeteria. Mr. Ostrow will briefly review the school year for band while families dine. There will be an opportunity at the end to sign up to help chaperone for events and performances.
- 3) Returning 7/8th Grade Students:
 - If you already have an instrument, please do not bring your instrument the first day of band. You will not need anything for your first day of band class. Mr. Ostrow will let you know when to bring them to school.
 - We are using a new method book this year that can be purchased for \$20. Please make checks out to L.A. Ainger Band Boosters. Funds can be placed in the Payments Box in the Band Room.



A Note 🎵 to Our Beginning Band Students

Band works to develop a musical *skill*. Students learn to read a new musical language, listen attentively to themselves and others perform, work to achieve a high level of musical technique, work together as a team (band), and develop a sense of music appreciation.

Band is both an elective and selective course. This means you have elected to play an instrument and you will be selected to play a part in an ensemble (band). The part you play will be determined by your effort and assessed by the director.

To prepare you for choosing an instrument, during the first few weeks of school, all beginning band students will be introduced to each instrument in class. For the beginner, core “starter” instruments include flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, euphonium, and percussion. We will also study instruments students can play after the first semester if they decide to continue. “Pathway” instruments include saxophone, oboe, bassoon, french horn and tuba. At the conclusion of the discovery process, each student will select their top two picks and will audition using a provided practice kit. Instrument selection will be based on three factors: what instruments are needed in the band (instrumentation), what physical and aural features lend a student to have more success on an instrument, and most importantly, what the student wants to play!

Once instrument selection has concluded, students will receive their instruments which are provided by the school for the first year. In order to take the instruments home, beginners need to complete “Basic Training”. This can be completed on at the **Beginning Band Basic Training** with hired professionals at Ainger after school on **Tuesday, September 3rd from 4-7pm. A pizza dinner will be provided.** Following the event, parents just need to pick up their children at the bus loop. Students that are not able to attend will complete their basic training during class.