

**REGISTRATION DUE BY
SEPTEMBER 14th**

Go to www.amybejm.com to
Register Online!

Dayton Oaks Elementary School

4691 Ten Oaks Road
Dayton, Maryland 21036
(410) 313-1571

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Hello! My name is Amy Syversen and I am honored to be the band director at Dayton Oaks Elementary School. As a fourth grader, your child finally has the opportunity to do what so many successful students have done before them, be part of the band! We know that for many of you, this will be your first exposure to music education and I wanted to take a brief minute to share some information with you.

I believe children have talent in music in their own special way, and it is my job to help them discover their musical gift. In order to do that, the band students will be taking part in a variety of music activities designed to help them develop musical skills and to know and appreciate many different styles of music.

Performing in instrumental music ensembles gives students so much more than just musical training. Students learn cooperation and teamwork, commitment and responsibility, tolerance and acceptance, as well as perseverance and self-discipline. Performing with a group that plays well helps build self-esteem, confidence and pride in accomplishment. Studying music also reinforces reading and math skills and enhances gross and fine motor skills.

Please talk with your child to see if they have an interest in being a part of this exciting program. The instruments available for students to play will be:

Trombone	Flute	Percussion	Oboe (private lessons encouraged)
Trumpet	Tuba	Saxophone	Bassoon (private lessons encouraged)
Clarinet	Euphonium		French Horn (private lessons encouraged)

These instruments can all be rented or purchased at local music stores. Larger instruments such as Tuba, Euphonium and French Horn may be available to borrow from our school free of charge. We do not have an oboe or bassoon, so if you would like to play these instruments, I will try to locate them to borrow from other schools. *If you would like to be in band but are unable to rent an instrument, please see or contact Mrs. Syversen.* I may receive multiple requests to play some instruments and, therefore, I am asking students to provide their first two choices. In order to maintain small class sizes and proper band balance, not every student will get his or her first choice instrument. I would also like students to explain briefly why he or she has chosen their particular first choice instrument. Maybe a sibling or parent has played it in the past, they might like the sound it makes, or there may be something about the instrument that makes it special to them. Whatever the reasons, I want them to share those feelings. If a student explains that he or she has an extremely strong desire to play a specific instrument I will do my very best to give that student his or her first choice. I will also work with your child to see if the instrument they have chosen is a good physical match. I will then contact you and let you know which instrument your child will be playing.

Each student will attend two band classes per week but because band will be taught on a rotating schedule, students will only miss the same class/time slot every couple of weeks or so. Classroom teachers are supportive of the band program and provide students with the make up work necessary to keep them on track in other subjects.

Having high expectations and standards gives each student the benefit of enjoyment from his or her musical experiences. If your child chooses to become a member of the DOES band, he/she will be given a handbook that will explain those expectations and also the policies regarding your child's participation in the band program.

If your child would like to learn to play an instrument and be a part of the fun that comes with being a member of a band, **I ask that you complete the online band registration form by Friday, September 14th.** To register for band, go to www.amybejm.com, click on the DOES band button on the right and click on the first link on that page to register.

If you have any questions, please contact me at any time! My email address is amy_syversen@hcpss.org. You can also leave a message for me at DOES at 410-313-1571.

Musically Yours,

Amy Syversen, Band Director



Dayton Oaks Elementary School Band

Required Materials

The following is a list of **required** materials for band. You may want to rent or lease your child's selected instrument from a local music store. *Please do not purchase an instrument online without speaking with Mrs. Syversen first! Do not purchase the cleaning kits from the stores, you only need the items below.*

The following is a list of the required accessories you will need to succeed:

All Students:

1. Wire Music Stand (*for home use, do not bring to school*) – this helps promote good posture
2. Instrument in good playing condition
3. Metronome (*for home use, do not bring to school*)
4. Two pencils with erasers stored in your instrument case *at all times*
5. Lesson Books:
 Measures of Success: A Comprehensive Musicianship Band Method Bk One for your instrument
6. 3-ring binder (required) and packet of sheet protectors for binder (optional)
7. One package of five index divider tabs for the binder labeled with the following sections: (1) schedule/handbook, (2) music, (3) practice charts, (4) scales/rhythm sheets, (5) handouts/other

<p>Trombones:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bottle of Slide-O-Mix (do not use slide oil!) 2. Tuning Slide Grease 3. Small Water Spray bottle or "Bone" bottle 4. Polishing Cloth and Microfiber Cloth 5. Mouthpiece brush (for home) 6. Cleaning Snake (for home) 7. Cleaning Rod and Paper Towels (for home) 	<p>Trumpets, Euphoniums and Tubas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bottle of Hetman Classic Piston Oil (Rotor Tubas need - Hetman Rotor Oil and Hetman Bearing Oil) 2. Hetman Tuning Slide Oil 3. Polishing Cloth and Microfiber Cloth 4. Mouthpiece brush (for home) 5. Cleaning Snake (for home) 6. <i>Tubas Only</i> – Baltimore Brass or DEG Tuba Rest (for home)
<p>Oboes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 4 extra handmade reeds AT ALL TIMES Paul Sorten (740) 587-1603 2. Reed case that holds 4 reeds 3. Cork Grease, Silk Swab and Water Container to wet reeds 	<p>Bassoons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 4 extra handmade reeds AT ALL TIMES 2. Reed case that holds 4 reeds 3. Cleaning swab 4. Seat Strap, Crutch, Silk Swab and Paraffin 5. Water Container to wet reeds
<p>French Horns:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One bottle of Rotary Valve Oil by Hetman 2. Hetman Tuning Slide Oil 3. Hetman Bearing Oil 4. Polishing Cloth and Microfiber Cloth 5. Mouthpiece brush (for home) 6. Cleaning Snake (for home) 	<p>Flutes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Flute tuning rod (should come with instrument) 2. Flute Swab (cloth for tuning rod) 3. Polishing Cloth 4. Bo Pep Flute Finger Saddle 5. Bo Pep Thumb Rest (Optional) 6. Pipe Cleaner(s) (keep one in case)
<p>Saxophones:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1 Legere Signature Series 2.25 strength reed and a reed case for 2 reeds (be careful not to break it!) 2. Mouthpiece Cap 3. Cork grease 4. Body Swab, Neck Swab, Mouthpiece Brush (brush for home) 5. Polishing Cloth and Pipe Cleaner(s) (Keep one in case) 6. Vandoren VMCX6 THICK mouthpiece cushion (<i>Mrs. S will apply</i>) 7. Rovner Light (H) Ligature (optional, but worth it!) 8. JD Hite Premiere Mouthpiece (optional, but worth it!) 	<p>Clarinets:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1 Legere Signature Series 2.25 strength reed and a reed case for 2 reeds (be careful not to break it!) 2. Mouthpiece Cap 3. Cork grease 4. Clarinet Swab, Mouthpiece Brush (brush for home) 5. Vandoren VMCX6 THICK mouthpiece cushion 6. Thumb Rest Cushion and Clarinet Neck Strap 7. Rovner Light (H) Ligature (optional, but worth it!) 8. JD Hite Premiere OR Mezzo JN Gennusa Mouthpiece (optional, but worth it!) 9. Q-Tips and Pipe Cleaner(s) (keep a few in your case)
<p>Percussion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Percussion Kit that includes: Vic Firth SD1 General drum sticks, Vic Firth M132 mallets, an 8" tunable practice pad, practice pad/bell stand, and a set of bells. *NOTE: It is NOT necessary for you to purchase a snare drum. 2. "Alfred's Drum Method Book 1" (in addition to book above) 3. "A Fresh Approach to Mallet Percussion" by Mark Wessells (in addition to the book above) 	

Dayton Oaks Elementary School Band Testimonials

Below are just a few testimonials from former members and parents of the DOES Band program so you can have more insight into what your child will experience as a member of the DOES Band.

"My son, David, started band as a 5th grade beginner. He had struggled academically all through school and we had no expectation at all that music was even really a possibility for him but agreed to let him try it. David loved band and quickly became proficient with the trombone. His success with music caused us to revisit his reading difficulties. Through testing, we learned he was dyslexic and we got on a path to address that as well. While academics can still be a struggle, he has come a long way both as a musician and a student. The discipline, focus and organizational skills he has learned as a musician have been critical in helping him face his academic challenges! Band, chorus and orchestra are huge at the middle school level. The kids get an hour of music a day. They do trips and concerts. It is an integral part of middle school life and the kids who are not involved in some way in music miss out on many exciting opportunities! Our daughter, Grace, has followed in her brother's footsteps and is a 4th grader this year playing saxophone. While she's not always certain of her commitment to the saxophone, she is absolutely certain she wants to stick with band into middle school because she sees the things her brother gets to do and looks forward to having the same opportunities herself." -Barb Ridenour (David and Grace Ridenour's Mom)

"My son Daniel started playing tuba before his 4th grade year and is still playing in middle school. He enjoys it tremendously and loves the big sounds he can make. Playing the tuba has also helped his piano playing. My daughter Kathleen is in 5th grade and also plays tuba. She was in GT band for 2 years. She also loves the big sounds she makes, and likes when people say "wow a girl tuba player, that is really cool!" She will continue to play in middle school. Mrs. Syversen's passion for her students motivated my children to do well, and they are proud of their abilities." -Ann Maiorana (Daniel and Kathleen Maiorana's Mom)

"I started band in elementary school after contemplating between playing the cello or the saxophone. Band with Mrs. Syversen was not only a fun, and educational experience, but it was inspiring. I found passion while participating in the Jazz band especially, and was set up for continuing music through middle, and high school. Although I had to leave the band program my sophomore year in high school, I cannot express how much education comes from participating in the music programs of Howard County. I currently work as a mechanical/optomechanical design engineer at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab, and will be studying engineering at Purdue University next year. I contribute the creativity which drives my engineering abilities, to the music programs which inspired me to practice creativity within the arts. Being well rounded is VERY important, and not just for applications, my experience in music gave me the skills which harmonize with my love of engineering and allow me to succeed." -Connor Tinker 2016 (former DOES student)

"The DOES band program, under the direction of Amy Syversen, has been a valuable factor in my son's education. As an academically challenged student, my son has gained confidence and an increasing self-worth because he is able to excel with music. He has learned skills and discipline that have transferred to his academic studies and made him a better learner. Band is such a fun break in his academic week that he doesn't mind missing recess for it!" -Parent of a 2nd year band student

"I can't say enough of what musical enrichment has done for Mitchell over the years. Starting in 4th grade with the encouragement of Mrs. Syversen, he began learning to play tuba. We always felt each student in class was made to feel special and received the praise he/she deserved. In addition to helping with his self-esteem, this gave him a nice group of friends to work, grow and perform with. He continued his musical education and always felt that music helped not only with his math skills, it also helped to keep him organized. Between homework, extra-curriculars, private lessons and practicing, he had to learn how to prioritize to get everything done. As a parent, I can also say that there are no smarter kids and no better friends than the ones he has made during his band career. They have been a motivating and positive influence to him and I am ecstatic that he had such a wonderful group of peers. As he moved on through middle and high school, he went on to participate in bands on the county, state and national levels and will be attending college in the fall to study Music Education. He credits the music

programs he has participated in as the best experiences of his life so far and hopes to become a music teacher so he can create a great program and pay it forward!" –Esther Evans (Mitchell Evan's Mom)

"Alexander Cui joined the band when he started 4th grade, and he enjoys playing trumpet very much since then. Mrs. Syversen's commitment and dedication for the band are remarkable and inspirational. Alex took private piano lessons at age of 5.5 years for more than 3 years, but true passion toward music comes to him after he starts playing trumpet with the band. We are very proud of his achievement in the band, but particularly of his continuous improvement and willingness of learning and practicing. We are more and more confident that he might play trumpet as a life-long hobby." -Hailing (Alex Cui's Mom)

"Love of music, motivation, hard work", these are the things that Robert Guan gained through band experience". –Yazhou (Robert Guan's Mom)

"We've seen how participating in band has helped grow our son's self-confidence, concentration, and time management. The payoff comes when he gets the thrill from a concert performance." –Tom Young (Brady Young's Dad)

"We moved to Dayton Oaks in 4th grade so I was delighted when Mrs. Syversen inspired our son to take up trombone. He can be quiet and does not like the limelight but Band got him up on stage performing confidently in front of people. It also made a child that struggles to focus develop that slip. We like that he belongs to a group as he goes through middle and high school. He has friends across the grades because they play together so transition to high school should be smooth. Our son is not into team sports so being in Band has given him the opportunity to work with others to create that special sound. The HCPSS Music Department is one of the very best things about our schools here and this shows very clearly in Mrs. Syversen's teaching. She is the kind of teacher you dream of. Moving on to middle school we have found this again in Mr. Jackowski at Lime Kiln; he is also one of the best. Our son's favourite lesson is always Band."

–Sally Jones (David Jones's Mom)

"The Dayton Oaks band has been amazing. My son started trumpet in 4th grade with no experience at all. Mrs. Syversen does an amazing job teaching as well as encouraging the students as they progress throughout the year. I would highly recommend the band program to anyone who may be interested in learning to play an instrument! The progress that they make in just a few months is incredible."

–Dana Denault (Landon Denault's Mom)

"Brad and Craig say that they love band because they can do special things like perform the Star Spangled Banner at an Orioles game and they can do things that aren't quite as special, but still great to know, like being able to read music. Plus, band kids make awesome friends. They both LOVE band." – Tracey Hoffman (Brad and Craig Hoffman's Mom)

"Thank you for bringing music to Eric's life. He now listens to a classical station to fall asleep to at night, prior to taking band that would have never happened. He has a better appreciation for all genres of music and that is due to you and to being in the band."

–Pam Roth (Eric Roth's Mom)

"Russell grew tremendously by participating in band. It was a wonderful experience, and we would encourage all kids to consider joining! Not only did it expose him to other types of music, but he learned to *read* music, a whole new language, that he began to follow when in church. He learned the value of teamwork, with every instrument contributing to a successful performance. He gained more confidence being part of a group playing in front of classmates, staff, and family. And, finally, we noticed he actually became more disciplined and better organized as he sought to improve his trumpet playing. Band has been a fantastic part of Russell's years at DOES!" -Diane Minni (Russell Minni's Mom)