

# A Letter from the Band Director

Dear parents and students,

Welcome, *and welcome back*, to the L.A. Ainger Band Program! This year Ainger will be hosting two beginning bands, one intermediate band, one advanced band, one jazz band, and one 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade percussion ensemble class. Returning students were placed in their classes based on instrumentation (balance of instruments) and ability. The ability was rated based on each student's performance last year as well as the summative exam in May.

Each ensemble will perform two main concerts this year towards the end of each semester. Please take the time to schedule around the performances listed on the band calendar.

## **For the first few weeks of school, here is what you need to do for band:**

1) Students new to band are asked to have your child bring a check made out to the *Ainger Band Boosters* in the amount of \$10. You may bring cash, but please place it in an envelope with your child's name on it. Your child will receive the required method book for his or her instrument.

2) Complete the 2015-16 Band Handbook Contract, Medical Information, and Media Release Forms. Please visit [www.aingerband.org](http://www.aingerband.org) and click on the "Band Handbook" link on the home page. Be sure to complete all required fields. If you do not have internet at home, please ask your child to ask me for a written copy of the handbook. This is Due Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup> and is a written grade 😊.

3) 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.

## A Note to New 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 week of school, all beginning band students will be introduced to each instrument in class. For the beginner, these instruments include flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, euphonium, tuba and percussion. At the conclusion of the discovery process, each student will select their top three picks and arrange to attend the "instrument test drive" with a parent or guardian.

The "instrument test drive" will take place after school on **Tuesday, August 18<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 7:30pm in the cafeteria**. At the test drive, students will be directed to test/play their top three picks with a skilled professional that plays each instrument. 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 what the student wants to play.

After testing is concluded, students and parents will be directed to speak with Mr. Ostrow to finalize what instrument will be played and to rent-to-own or check out a school instrument. Every student and their parent(s) will be worked with individually.

All students should have an instrument in a band locker by the end of the second week of school. Parents, if you are unable to attend the test drive, please call or e-mail Mr. Ostrow to arrange for a private consultation either before or after school hours.

## 2015-2016 Tentative LAAMS Band Calendar

Please read all newsletters sent home/e-mail as well as check the band website at [www.aingerband.org](http://www.aingerband.org) for updates and changes to the band calendar.

Students	Date(s)	Event
	August 5 <sup>th</sup>	Open House
	August 10 <sup>th</sup>	School Begins!
	August 14 <sup>th</sup>	The Band Handbook Contract, Medical Form, and Media Release are due
BB	August 18 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Instrument Rental Night, 6-7:30pm, Cafeteria</i>
All Ensembles	August 20 <sup>th</sup>	Band Parent Pizza Party and Social, 6pm, Cafeteria
All Ensembles	August 28 <sup>th</sup>	Band Pool Party, 5-7pm at the San Casa Pool
Selected Students	September TBA	All-State Auditions, Riverview HS, Times TBA
	Aug 31- Sept. 11	Pledge to Practice Drive Fundraiser
AB	October 1 <sup>st</sup>	<i>Middle School Band Night Rehearsal at LBHS, Times TBA</i>
AB	October 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<i>Middle School Band Night at LBHS, Times TBA</i>
All Ensembles	October TBA	Band Pictures, Taken during school hours during band class. Exact dates TBA
	October 9 <sup>th</sup>	End of 1st Quarter
JB, PE	October 19-30 <sup>th</sup>	Yankee Candle Fundraiser
BB	November 13-14 <sup>th</sup>	<i>FAME Fundraiser and Jazz Performance, Dearborn Street Festival, Times TBA</i>
	November 19 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Beginning Band Student/Parent Rehearsal, 6-8pm</i>
	November 23-27 <sup>th</sup>	Thanksgiving Break
All Ensembles	December 10 <sup>th</sup>	<i>LAAMS Winter Concert, 6:30pm, Location TBA</i>
	December 11-18 <sup>th</sup>	Exams
	December 18 <sup>th</sup>	End of 2nd Quarter
Selected Students	January 6 <sup>th</sup>	First Day Back for Students
	January 13-16 <sup>th</sup>	FMEA Conference in Tampa and All State Performance (Mr. Ostrow and All-State members will be in Tampa)
JB	February TBA	<i>Jazz Pre-MPA, Murdock Baptist Church in PC, Times and Date TBA</i>
JB	February 8-10 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Jazz Band MPA at Braden River HS, Exact Dates and Times TBA</i>
AB, PE	February 12-13 <sup>th</sup>	Solo and Ensemble at Braden River HS
All Ensembles	February 19 <sup>th</sup>	Band Lock-in, 8pm-7am the next day (Optional)
AB	February 25 <sup>th</sup>	<i>MPA Prep, Woodwind Sectionals, 4-6pm, LAAMS</i>
JB, PE	March TBA	Boca Grande Women's Club Parade and Performance, Details TBA
AB	March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<i>MPA Prep, Brass &amp; Percussion Sectionals, 4-6pm, LAAMS</i>
	March 7-24 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Fundraiser, TBA
AB	March 10 <sup>th</sup>	<i>MPA Prep, Full Band Rehearsal, 4-6pm, LAAMS</i>
	March 11 <sup>th</sup>	End of 3rd Quarter
	March 14-18 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Break
AB	March 24 <sup>th</sup>	<i>MPA Prep, Full Band Rehearsal, 4-6pm, LAAMS</i>
AB	March 31 <sup>st</sup>	<i>Band MPA (Music Performance Assessment), Venice HS, Times TBA</i>
AB	April 9 <sup>th</sup>	Islands of Adventure Trip, TENTATIVE, Details TBA
All Ensembles	May 17 <sup>th</sup>	<i>LAAMS Spring Concert and Awards, 6:30pm, Location TBA</i>
	May 19-26 <sup>th</sup>	Exams
	May 26 <sup>th</sup>	Last day of school!

### Key:

**BB = Beginning Band Students**

**IB = Intermediate Band Students**

**AB = Advanced Band Students**

**JB = Jazz Band Students**

**PE = Percussion Ensemble Students**

Graded co-curricular performances and rehearsals are *italicized*.