

YIS 5th Grade Band FAQ Packet 2019

Why should my student participate in band?

The Music Department in Yorkville shares a fundamental philosophy that every student deserves the opportunity to learn how to play an instrument. By learning how to play an instrument, students:

- Score higher in math & reading assessments
- Learn self-discipline & responsibility
- Develop self-expression & fine arts appreciation
- Build team skills & life-long friendships

What will my student learn in band this year?

Our district uses *Essential Elements 2000* to help teach fundamental skills including rhythm, note reading, and musical symbols. These skills are applied through performance on each child's instrument.

When are the band concerts?

5th grade band runs from late September to the end of May. Your child will have the opportunity to perform in two dress rehearsals and four concerts this year. Below are the dates:

- November 14, 2019 5th Grade YIS Band Progress Concert, 7:15PM at YIS (arrive 6:40pm)
- January 9, 2020 5th Grade Band Dress Rehearsal, 5:00-6:00PM at GRES (arrive 4:45pm)
- January 15, 2020 5th and 7th Grade Winter Band Concert, 6:00PM at YMS (arrive 5:30pm)
- March 10, 2020 5th Grade Band Dress Rehearsal, 5:00-6:00PM at GRES (arrive 4:45pm)
- March 14, 2020 Fine Arts Festival Performance, 8AM-4PM at YHS (Performance Time TBD)
- May 4, 2020 5th and 6th Grade Band and Orchestra Concert, 7PM at YMS (arrive 6:15pm)

What is your attendance policy for band concerts?

Concerts are a time for your child to celebrate their hard work, and the band depends on each child's attendance. For this reason, student attendance at all band concerts is mandatory. Vacation and work schedules are not an excuse for absence from a concert. Carpooling is one suggested solution. Please do your best to plan in advance. Of course, family emergencies and student illness are excused as they are unexpected. Please contact your child's band director as soon as possible regarding any conflicts so that an alternative arrangement and/or solution can be worked out.

Once we rent the instrument, what will happen next?

If you order your instrument at the Instrument Informational Night, Ellman's Music Center is scheduled to deliver those instruments by late September. At this time, students will begin their once-a-week, 30-minute lesson during the school day. In early October, students will begin band rehearsals twice a week before school from 7:20-8:25 AM. Band directors will provide a more detailed schedule at your child's first lesson. These lessons and before school rehearsals will prepare students for their first concert in November.

What are lessons?

Lessons are 30-minute, small group sessions held once a week during the school day. Students are grouped by their instrument and classroom teacher, which allows the individualized attention necessary for success in band. Your child will never miss math, language arts, social studies, or science for a band lesson. If you ever have any concerns regarding the lesson schedule, please contact your band teacher as soon as possible.

What if I cannot drive my child to morning rehearsals and/or concerts?

Many families carpool so their child can participate in band. This may be a solution for your family. 5th grade is the only year when band is before school. After this, band is part of your child's school day.

Can my child wait to join band as a 6th grader?

If your child is interested in learning an instrument, this is the year to join. While we will always accept students into our band program, late starters are at a great disadvantage from the rest of the band and often struggle to catch up. The best way to ensure your child is successful in band is to start them in 5th grade with the rest of their peers.

Can students be involved in both athletics and band?

Yes, absolutely! You may be surprised to learn that the vast majority of Yorkville music students are also very active in a variety of sports and clubs. In fact, some of the best athletes are the best musicians. Hard work and dedication is required for both activities, and we are excited to work with your student athlete. In fact, many of the band, orchestra, and choir teachers themselves were enrolled in both music and sports throughout their time in school. For this reason, the music staff is very comfortable working with students who have a busy extracurricular schedule to be able to find time for all the activities they enjoy. Without question, students can be in sports, clubs, and band!

Where can my child store their instrument and music?

Each student will be assigned a locker inside the band room to store music and instruments. The band room is unlocked each morning and locked each day after school for security.

How much should my child practice at home?

Practice at home is essential to all musicians' success. In order to pass weekly assigned music goals, students should practice at least 4 days a week for 20 minutes a day. There may be times when your child becomes frustrated and will need encouragement from family. For more advice on practicing, please see the attached "Top 10 Practice Tip for Home."

Feel free to contact your child's band director with any further questions. Email is preferred as we teach at several schools in the district. Thank you for supporting your child in band. We cannot wait to see you at our first concert!

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Top Ten Practice Tips for Parents

1. Have a **special space** for your child to practice.
2. Set aside a specific time each day to practice. **Make practicing a part of your child's daily homework** routine. Shorter practice sessions over several days are more productive than marathon practice sessions once a week.
3. Be actively engaged in your child's music education. **Ask your child to play for you** occasionally and provide positive feedback.
4. **Try to be home** when your child is practicing to ensure quality practice.
5. If you play an instrument, **practice along** with them.
6. **Have your child teach you to play or count a specific rhythm.** This will help students clarify their own understanding.
7. **Quality over quantity** is important. Make sure your child is practicing the specific goals assigned each week on their Goal Sheet. Mastery is when a **student can play their goals three times in a row without making a mistake.** Simply running through music start to finish is not considered practicing.
8. Offer **small incentives** occasionally as a reward for a good practice sessions. Ideas: Allowing them to play through their favorite piece of music after completing their goals or purchasing them a fun, new music book.
9. **Be supportive** of your child's practicing and do not make fun of the sounds your child is creating. Your child is developing as a musician and it will take time to refine their sound and ability.
10. **Be patient, understanding, and encouraging.** This is an exciting time in your child's life so have fun along with them!

Helpful Hints for Purchasing Beginner Band Instruments

We are so excited to hear that you are interested in investing in your child's music education. Here are some helpful hints to help you in this process.

First, and most importantly, please communicate with your **band teacher** if you are considering buying. We know that purchasing an instrument can be overwhelming at times. However, we are **experts in the field of music and we are here to help**. Always contact your band teacher prior to buying an instrument.

Second, we strongly recommend your family **rents at least for the first few months** until you are certain that your child and their instrument are a good match. Many music companies offer introductory pricing for the first few months so families have more time to find a quality instrument to purchase. Also, most music companies offer discounts if you purchase the instrument you are already renting. When you are ready to buy, please consider this option.

Third, it is very important to **invest in a quality musical instrument**. The so-called "bargain" instruments may seem tempting, but experience has proven that these instruments are no bargain at all.

- Low prices are a result of lower quality materials and poor workmanship. These instruments tend to break more easily and can be costly or impossible to repair.
- Low quality instruments are often harder to play well, putting your child at a disadvantage to reach their fullest musical potential.
- The sound quality of these instruments is very poor and can negatively impact the sound of the entire band.

Fourth, beware of "deals" advertised online. You can never fully know what you are getting online, and we do not recommend this option. If possible, seek local sellers who often allow the instrument to be play-tested prior to purchase. Just think: Would you buy a car without test driving it first?

We want to see your child's enthusiasm for music continue to grow, and one of the best ways you can do this is through quality instruments. For this reason, we have provided you with a list of recommended instrument brands and models. We have found these instruments to be reliable, easy to repair, and will give your child the best opportunity to succeed as a young musician. You are not limited to this list, but these are the brands and models that are "tried and true." If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact your child's band teacher.

Recommended Beginner Band Instruments for Yorkville

These brands and models are proven to be high quality, yet affordable.

All brands are listed in order of preference.

Flute

Yamaha YFL22I

Gemeinhardt 2SP

Oboe

Yamaha YOB24I

Clarinet

Yamaha YCL250 or YCL 255

LeBlanc Bliss 210S

LeBlanc V7214

Buffet Crampon B12

Trumpet

Yamaha YTR200

Bach TR300H2

Horn *Single Horn, sometimes called French Horn or F. Horn*

Yamaha YHR314

Holton H602

Conn 14D

Trombone *sometimes called Tenor Trombone*

Yamaha YSL354

Bach TB301

King 606

Euphonium *sometimes called Baritone*

Yamaha YEP20I

Xylophone

Adams AXLD35 or AMPD33R

Yamaha YXI35

Ross R320 or R410

YIS 5th Grade Band 2019-2020

Morning Rehearsal Dates

- This is a *tentative* list of dates for our morning 5th grade band practices
 - Dates subject to change – you will be notified if this happens
 - Make sure to **enroll** in our **REMIND** Text Service to receive last minute updates
 - **Text @yis5band to 81010** to enroll
- **Band runs 7:20-8:25am**
 - Students need to arrive between 7:10-7:15am
 - Students should be in their seats ready to play by 7:20am
 - Students should not arrive earlier than 7:05am
 - Doors will not be unlocked until 7:05am
 - Students enter through **Door 10** on the side of the school by the band room (back by the dumpsters – follow the bus lane)
 - If the doors are locked, please text via our REMIND app

October 2019

Thursday, October 17
Monday, October 21
Monday, October 28
Wednesday, October 30**

(not a mistake – this is our only Wednesday rehearsal all year)

November 2019

Friday, November 1
Tuesday, November 5
Thursday, November 7
Monday, November 11
Friday, November 15
Tuesday, November 19
Thursday, November 21
Monday, November 25

December 2019

Monday, December 2
Friday, December 6
Tuesday, December 10
Thursday, December 12
Monday, December 16

January 2020

Tuesday, January 7
Thursday, January 9
Monday, January 13
Tuesday, January 21
Thursday, January 23
Monday, January 27
Friday, January 31

February 2020

Tuesday, February 4
Thursday, February 6
Monday, February 10
Friday, February 14
Friday, February 21
Tuesday, February 25
Thursday, February 27

March 2020

Monday, March 2
Friday, March 6
Tuesday, March 10
Thursday, March 12
Monday, March 16
Friday, March 20
Tuesday, March 31

April 2020


Thursday, April 2
Monday, April 6
Tuesday, April 14
Thursday, April 16
Monday, April 20
Friday, April 24
Tuesday, April 28
Thursday, April 30

May 2020

Monday, May 4
Friday, May 8
Tuesday, May 12
Thursday, May 14
Monday, May 18



YIS 5th Grade Band Calendar September 2019

This is a tentative schedule to help your family plan schedules and transportation needs. A more detailed schedule will be given to your child at their first band lesson.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2 No School Labor Day	3 Parent Informational Night at YMS	4	5	6  Last Day to order your instruments and materials to receive them on time. Ellman's Music 630-355-5880
9 C	10 D	11 A	12 B	13 C
Week 1: 1st Band Lesson Without Instruments. More Detailed Schedule to Come at the Start of this Week. We will learn how to read your band notes and rhythms. Instruments are delivered throughout the week by Ellman's Music.				
16 D	17 A	18 B	19 C	20 D
Week 2: 2nd Band Lesson Without Instruments. More Detailed Schedule to Come During Week 1. We will learn how to put our instruments together. Instruments do not go home.				
23 A	24 B	25 C	26 D	27 A
Week 3: 1st Band Lesson Playing Instruments. More Detailed Schedule to Come During Week 2. We will learn how to produce a sound on our instruments. Instruments will go home for practicing.				


YIS 5th Grade Band Calendar: October 2019

* We understand that this schedule may seem confusing at first. In general, band will alternate between meeting on Monday/Friday and Tuesday/Thursday. There will be some exceptions to this pattern. Your child's band teacher will ensure that you and your child stays informed of all band rehearsals through our monthly calendar.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
30 B	1 C	2 D	3 A	4 B
Week 4: 2nd Band Lesson Playing Instruments. More Detailed Schedule to Come During Week 3. Instruments need to come back to school on the day of your lesson. Instruments will be stored in the band room.				
7 C	8 D	9	10 B	11
Week 5: 3rd Band Lesson Playing Instruments. More Detailed Schedule to Come During Week 4. Instruments need to come back to school on the day of your lesson. Instruments will be stored in the band room.				No School Fall Break
14 No School Columbus Day	15 Teacher Institute	16 C	17  First Before School Band Arrive 7:10-7:15am Rehearsal 7:20-8:25 at YIS	18 A
21 Full Band Rehearsal 7:20-8:25AM at YIS	22 C	23 D	24 Half Day Parent-Teacher Conferences	25 No School Parent-Teacher Conferences
28 B Full Band Rehearsal 7:20-8:25AM at YIS	29 C	30  Full Band Rehearsal 7:20-8:25AM at YIS NOT A MISTAKE! This will be our ONLY Wednesday morning practice this year!	31 A	1 B Full Band Rehearsal 7:20-8:25AM at YIS

YIS 5th Grade Band Calendar

November 2019

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
4 C	5 D Full Band Rehearsal 7:20-8:25AM at YIS	6 A	7 B Full Band Rehearsal 7:20-8:25AM at YIS	8 C
11 D Full Band Rehearsal 7:20-8:25AM at YIS	12 A	13 B	14 C  5th Grade Band Concert! Arrive 6:40pm Concert 7:15-7:45pm in the YIS Gym	15 D Full Band Rehearsal 7:20-8:25AM at YIS
18 A	19 B Full Band Rehearsal 7:20-8:25AM at YIS	20 C	21 D Full Band Rehearsal 7:20-8:25AM at YIS	22 A
25 B Full Band Rehearsal 7:20-8:25AM at YIS	26 C 1-Hour Early Release	27 No School	28 No School	29 No School

7:20AM Band Drop-Off Procedure

- ⇒ Enter the YIS Bus Lane off of Route 126
- ⇒ Drive to the West side of the building watching for students
- ⇒ Stop by the Green Dumpsters on the West side
- ⇒ Drop off student(s)
- ⇒ Student(s) Enter through Door 10
- ⇒ Drive around the back of YIS slowly
- ⇒ Exit past Circle Center Grade School on to Mill Street
- ⇒ **Note** – *please do not enter the bus lane from Mill Street. You will be driving against the flow of traffic.*

