

St. Robert School Band Program
2019-2020

Greetings, St. Robert Fourth Grade Parents!

My name is Adam Zolinski, and I am in my third year at St. Robert as its band director. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your children to the St. Robert Band Program! Enclosed in this packet is a wealth of information. I would invite you to carefully read and consider enrolling your child in what will be a very exciting and rewarding year of music making, new friends, and new experiences.

Your child is of eligible age to enroll in Beginning Band for the 2019-2020 school year. This group will meet on Mondays and Thursdays after school from 3:05 to 3:45. Students will also receive one group lesson per week, along with other exciting opportunities. Every 5th-8th grader at St. Robert--regardless of whether they've had no or several years of musical instrument experience--is eligible to be a part of the band program!

During the fourth graders' music classes during the week of April 8, the students will have the opportunity to try out all of the woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments St. Robert has to offer. If you anticipate that your child will miss school those days, please let me know and I will gladly arrange an alternate time for your child to take part in instrument tryouts so he or she does not miss out.

Please take time to prayerfully discuss this decision with your family, and kindly return the registration forms (included in this packet) to my mailbox **after** the students try out instruments. Feel free to contact me at any time if you have any further questions regarding our program. My email address is "azolinski@strobert.school" and my phone number is (414) 332-1164 ext. 3408.

I hope the rest of this school year proves successful for your children and the following summer proves restful and rejuvenating for you and your family! I look forward to meeting you and hopefully welcoming you and your child to our band family! Band is a truly rewarding experience, and I hope you and your child will take advantage of this great opportunity St. Robert provides to its students!

All my best,
Adam Zolinski

St. Robert School Band Program
2019-2020

We are so privileged to share the gift of music with one another, and participation in band is a wonderful outlet to do just that. Learning the art of music through performance and practice is a great way to develop discipline, critical thinking skills, a solid work ethic, collaborative skills with others, self-confidence, and a positive sense of community. The ultimate goal of our program is to teach skills that will allow our students to become fine young musicians and people.

Group lessons: Our lesson program offers the teacher an opportunity to meet the individual needs of each student. Students will be given one 30-minute small group lesson on a weekly basis. Here we will work to develop tone, technique, and other musical skills specific to each instrument. Lessons will be given throughout the school day as determined by the band teacher, principal, and classroom teachers.

Full ensemble rehearsals: All students will participate in in two full ensemble rehearsals per week. This is an opportunity for us to come together and apply the knowledge gained in individual lessons. Rehearsals will include fundamental/technical work, development of musicality through exciting pieces, and an overall appreciation of the art of music through theory, history, and listening.

Beginning Band: Beginning Band is open to students in 5th-8th grade. Students will learn the fundamentals of ensemble playing in a safe and encouraging environment. Beginning Band will meet Mondays and Thursdays after school from 3:05 to 3:45. The students will perform in three concerts throughout the year.

Intermediate Band (6th): Intermediate Band is open to students in 6th grade and will meet twice a week during the school day as part of the middle school music program. Intermediate Band is designed for those with one year of experience on their instrument in Beginning Band. Here students will continue to build off the skills learned throughout the previous year, and will begin to perform more challenging repertoire. The students will also perform in three concerts.

Concert Band (7th-8th): Concert Band is open to students in 7th-8th grade and will meet twice a week during the school day as part of the middle school music program. Concert Band is designed for those with two or more years of experience on their instrument. Here students will develop and refine their musical knowledge and enhance their skills in order to perform more challenging repertoire. The students will also perform in three concerts.

2019-20 Concert Dates: November 7, December 19, May 19

Tuition: Each student/parent in the St. Robert Band Program will sign a ***one-year participation and financial commitment*** contract. Tuition for band will be billed along with school tuition. The tuition rate for the St. Robert Band Program for the 2019-2020 school year is \$750 per student.

St. Robert School Band Program
2019-2020

Frequently Asked Questions

Why join band? Band is a unique and enriching experience for young students! Learning a musical instrument not only teaches musical skills, but life skills as well! The three bands at St. Robert are only launching pads into a world of amazing opportunities at the high-school level, college level, and beyond! Performing music at a high level is an extraordinary rewarding experience not only for the performers, but for those they perform for as well!

What will be expected of my child?

Three main things:

1. Dedication to the ensemble
2. Strong effort to participate/improve (the more effort put forth, the more reward in return)
3. A positive attitude

Music is an invaluable part of the core curriculum, and will be treated as such.

How much will my child need to practice? I stress quality--not quantity--of practice. St. Robert students are busy balancing many outside activities with their academic work. If they learn the tools that will help them to practice intelligently, they will not have to spend hours on end with their instruments. A solid amount of practice for beginning band students is 15 minutes four times a week. Students will be held accountable for their work through observation and formal playing assessments. Practice is a necessary, non-optional part of band.

What instruments are offered?

Woodwinds: flute, oboe, bassoon, Bb/alto/bass clarinet, alto/tenor/baritone saxophone

Brass: trumpet, F horn, trombone, baritone/euphonium, tuba

String: electric bass

Percussion: percussionists start on concert bells, then move to non-pitched instruments after the first trimester. **NOTE: After the first year, percussion students are highly recommended to seek private lessons with a studio teacher in addition to the lessons at St. Robert.**

How do we choose an instrument? Students will have a chance with the band director in spring to try instruments and discuss the best fit for each student. Many factors are taken into consideration including interests, physical characteristics, and ensemble need. In order to have a well-balanced ensemble, we must have a reasonable amount of students on each instrument.

Be open minded to instrument choice; they are all unique and wonderful!

St. Robert School Band Program
2019-2020

MATERIALS LIST FOR BAND

- ❑ **BOOK:** One copy of Essential Elements for Band, Book One.
- ❑ **ACCESSORIES:**
 - ❑ Flute:
 - ❑ Cleaning cloth
 - ❑ A second small cloth
 - ❑ Cleaning rod (usually supplied with instrument)
 - ❑ Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet, and Saxophone:
 - ❑ Cleaning cloth
 - ❑ At least three good reeds at all times, #2 strength
 - ❑ Cleaning swab
 - ❑ Cork grease
 - ❑ Neck strap (saxophone only)
 - ❑ Trumpet, F Horn, Trombone, Baritone/Euphonium, and Tuba
 - ❑ Cleaning cloth
 - ❑ Valve oil (slide oil for trombone)
 - ❑ Small spray bottle of water (trombone only)
 - ❑ Percussion
 - ❑ Bell kit (see PERCUSSION page for details)

TAKING CARE OF YOUR BAND INSTRUMENT

ALL instruments: Handle your instrument with great care. Never let anyone else play your instrument. Do not play your instrument outdoors unless otherwise instructed. Never eat food, chew gum, or drink any beverages (other than water) while playing your instrument. Put a name tag on your case. Do not put books, music, or other materials in your case unless there is a special place provided. Protect your instrument from extreme temperatures.

BRASS instruments: Never pound the mouthpiece into the instrument with your hand. If the mouthpiece gets stuck, bring it to the music teacher. Oil valves and slides as needed.

WOODWIND instruments: Dry your instrument with a swab after each playing session. Never put your instrument away with your reed still on the mouthpiece; store it in the reed holder.

PERCUSSION instruments: Never let anything sharp get near the drum head.

St. Robert School Band Program
2019-2020

HOW DO I GET AN INSTRUMENT?

1. Rent an instrument from a local music store. This is the easiest and most practical means of obtaining an instrument, and costs are relatively inexpensive. Below is a list of local music stores with rental programs. You may choose the store and rental program that best fits your needs. In most cases, money paid in monthly rental fees is directly applied to the purchase of the instrument (many stores have “rent-to-buy” programs..
2. Borrow/use someone else’s instrument. This is a great option if there is another family member, brother, sister, friend, etc. that has an instrument that is no longer being played. When taking this route, however, please have the band director inspect the instrument to make sure it is in good playing condition. Also, the instrument should be taken to a music store to get a full interior and exterior cleaning and disinfecting before first use.
3. Purchase an instrument. This is usually recommended for students who have been playing for several years and are certain that they will continue down the road. If you are interested, there are many good deals available, however please seek guidance from the band director before choosing so that you ensure you will get the best instrument for your money.
4. Know that there are different brands, models, and types of each instrument out there. Some instrument models are best suited for beginners, while others are best suited for intermediate, high-school, college, or professional players. Before purchasing, please discuss the different options with the band director to make sure you are purchasing an appropriate instrument model for your child.
5. **DO NOT PURCHASE YOUR CHILD’S INSTRUMENT ONLINE.** I cannot stress this enough. While buying an inexpensive and/or used instrument online seems like a good economical decision, know that there are very dishonest people out there who will sell you a poor quality instrument. In addition, **your support of your local music stores is essential to their businesses.** Please support your local music store!

Brass Bell: 210 W. Silver Spring Dr., Milwaukee, WI 53217. (414) 963-1000.
brassbellmusic.com

Music & Arts: 12805 W. Janesville Rd., Muskego, WI 53150. (414) 427-1501. musicarts.com

Cascio Interstate Music: 13819 W. National Ave. New Berlin, WI 53151. (262) 786-6249.
interstatemusic.com

St. Robert School Band Program
2019-2020

REGISTRATION CONTRACT

Student Name: _____

Student Grade in the 2019-2020 School Year: _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

Mobile Phone Number(s): _____

Work Phone Number(s): _____

Email Address(es): _____

Instrument in the 2019-2020 School Year (*returning band students, write current instrument;*
Beginning Band students, list two or three instruments you would like to play)

By signing this contract, I am agreeing to a ONE-YEAR PARTICIPATION, PRACTICE, AND FINANCIAL COMMITMENT to the St. Robert Band Program.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____