FAQs about 4th Grade Band



About the Band Program

Who teaches band? Ms. D'Angelo teaches band at GHR. She has been teaching band since 2013 and the 26-27 school year will be her 7th year at GHR.

Is being in band required? Band is not required at GHR. However, students who want to join the band in middle school must participate in the 4th and 5th grade band.

Does band meet during the school day? Yes. Fourth grade students have a lesson once per week. (There are no additional weekly rehearsals for grade 4.) Students are expected to attend all lessons and to make up any material in their other class that they missed.

Will my child miss class time? Your child will miss part of class to be in band. The grade level teachers play a large role in creating the lesson schedule and placing students in lessons during subjects that will be the least disruptive to each child's learning. However, students are expected to complete any work that they missed.

How will Ms. D'Angelo communicate with families? Ms. D'Angelo sends most important information and newsletters via email. **Please add Ms. D'Angelo as a contact** (kdangelo@coventryct.org) so band emails don't go to your spam! Ms. D'Angelo posts important resources for students on her Google Classroom.

Expectations

How much should my child practice? Students are expected to practice at least four days per week for at least 15 minutes per day. We are building physical skills as well as knowledge and practice is important for developing and retaining these skills.

When are the concerts? Grade 4 band students will have one concert this year:
Spring Concert: Thurs, May 20th at Veterans Auditorium, Coventry High School

What if my child changes their mind mid-year? Students are expected to commit a whole year's study to their instrument. Building the skills to use an instrument, to hear and reproduce music, to respond musically in a mixed instrument ensemble, and to read music notation takes time.

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Signing up and Choosing an Instrument

How do I sign up? Students will try instruments individually with Ms. D'Angelo. After this process is complete and each student has an instrument assignment, Ms. D'Angelo will contact you with the registration form. Expect this to be approximately late October or early November.

How does my child choose an instrument? Your child has already heard their instrument choices during school and has chosen three that interest them. They will try these three instruments with Ms. D'Angelo and will rank their top two choices. Ms. D'Angelo will use these two choices and the overall balance of the band to assign students one of their two top choices. Note that we have a limit on how many Percussion (drums) and Saxophone players we can have in the band. This limit is for balance and function of the band, which affects the band program all the way through 12th grade. Ms. D'Angelo will send your child's instrument assignment and rental information to you.

Can my child choose oboe, French horn, bassoon, or tuba? We do not offer lessons on these instruments in 4th grade. Students may switch to French horn in 5th grade and to oboe, bassoon, and tuba in middle school. Instrument switches are made at the discretion of the band director on these criteria: hard work and exemplary preparation of music. Talk to Ms. D'Angelo about which instrument to play in grade 5 if your child wants to play one of these instruments in the future.

When do I rent an instrument? As soon as possible after receiving your child's instrument assignment. Rental information and a supply list will be provided when Ms. D'Angelo sends out instrument assignments in late October or early November.