

All About.....

THE SJC SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM

2017-2018

Mr. Craig Hirotsuka chirotsuka@gmail.com

About our band program...

Our band program is called the SF School Band Program, although it is not directly affiliated with St. Francis High School. Bronstein Music has sponsored and provided the band teachers for the SF School Band Program for the past 27 years. Bronstein Music makes band class at our school possible. They provide us with this wonderful program solely through their instrument rental program.

Who is our Band Director?

Our band director is **Mr. Craig Hirotsuka**. Mr. H has 27 years of experience teaching private lessons as well as classroom teaching. He has worked at a number of local schools in the Mountain View Elementary School District, as well as Mountain View High School, Cupertino High School, Santa Teresa High School, and Fremont Union High School District. Mr. Hirotsuka also currently teaches at St. Simon, St. Joseph Mountain View, and McAuliffe Elementary School in Cupertino. He is proficient in all wind and percussion instruments, and is comfortable teaching beginning through advanced students. With his energetic style and welcoming, friendly manner, "Mr. H" has brought new life and enthusiasm to SJC's band program. In addition, Mr. H works very closely with Mrs. Belloni to further develop the musical education of our band students as well as to grow participation in our band program and increase our band's performance opportunities.

When is band class?

Both Beginning and Intermediate band each will meet for two classes a week for 30 minutes each during the school day. That means your child will be working with Mr. H more frequently each week and will have a total of 60 minutes of instruction time per week. The Advanced Band will meet once a week for about an hour during lunchtime and after school on minimum day Wednesdays.

- Beginning Band: Wednesday & Fridays 10:15 - 10:45 am (Recess)
- Intermed. Band: Mondays 10:15 - 10:45 (Recess) & Weds 10:45 - 11:15
- Adv. Band: Weds 12:15-1:05 (Lunch) ** 12:30 - 1:15pm on MIN. WEDNESDAYS

Who can be in band? What instruments are in band?

Band is open to students in Grades 4 - 8. Beginning students may choose: flute, clarinet, trumpet, or trombone. Contact Mr. H if you would like to play saxophone, drums/percussion, French horn, Baritone Horn, or other wind instruments. Band does not include piano or violin.

How much does it cost? Cost = Tuition + Book + Instrument Rental/Purchase

Band tuition is charged to your FACTS account. Payment options include:

- A one-time payment of \$395 for the full school year; payment due upon registration which will then be charged to your FACTS account.

OR

- A payment of \$195 due upon registration which will then be charged to your FACTS account; A second payment of \$205 will be charged to your FACTS account in January.

Band books will need to be purchased separately by each student/family. See reverse side for information about purchasing band books and renting an instrument.

Do I need to know how to read music?

No. You do not need any previous music experience to start band! If you already play another instrument, like the piano, your knowledge will help you.

Do I need to own an instrument?

You will need an instrument in good working condition. If you borrow one from a friend or family member, have it checked and repaired, if necessary, by an instrument technician before your first band class. Most beginning students rent an instrument for the first year or so, because all routine maintenance is free for rented instruments. Bronstein Music offers basic instrument (flute, clarinet, trumpet, or snare drum) lease starting at \$28.00 a month. Bronstein Music is the preferred instrument rental provider for SJC band students. See www.bronsteinmusic.com for details and rates on other instruments. *Please note that Bronstein's charges 2 months rental in advance for new accounts.*

How do I find out more or sign up?

Mrs. Belloni and Mr. H are hosting a drop-in Band Information Night on **Wednesday, September 6th at 7:00pm - 8:30pm in the Community Center**. Band Info Night is a time for you and your child to come and meet Mr. H in person in an informal setting and to try out all of the various band instruments that your child may be interested in playing. Come by anytime that is convenient for you between 7pm and 8:30pm - first come, first served. We will also be there to help you with leasing an instrument if you choose to do so. Band registration forms will also be accepted at Band Info night.

How to Lease an Instrument from Bronstein Music (our preferred provider.)

- 1) Go to: <http://www.bronsteinmusic.com>
- 2) Click on "How do I rent an instrument" (located about half way down the page)
- 3) On the next page, scroll to the very bottom of the page where it says **Online Rentals for Cupertino Elementary Schools**. Click the link called "Click here to proceed with your online rental for one of these schools" in the section under St. Francis Schools.
- 4) On the next page, select "**St Joseph of Cupertino School**" on the far-right column.
- 5) Select the instrument you wish to rent from the categories (i.e. Beginning Flute, etc.)
- 6) Press the blue "**View Options**" button on the right; then the green "**Rent Item Now**"
- 7) **IMPORTANT:** The initial rental fee is **DOUBLE** the monthly fee; You are required to pay **2 MONTHS** in advance for a new lease.
- 8) **Register or sign in:** If you are a returning customer, sign in. If you are a new customer, go to the "New Customer" box and press "continue."
- 9) Please fill out the form and create a password for your account, if needed.
- 10) Read and accept the Rental/Lease agreement.
- 11) Select the items you would like to purchase along with your rental. **We suggest you purchase the care kit for your instrument and a music stand. Clarinets and Sax will need reeds. ALL Beginning Band students need to also purchase the "STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE BOOK 1" for your instrument type. i.e. flute, trumpet, or clarinet**
- 12) Review your information to make sure it is correct
- 13) **IMPORTANT: In the "Shipping & Payment" page under "Additional Information" please select "SCHOOL" as your pickup location. The instrument will be delivered to you at SJC!**
- 14) Select "continue" and "complete order". You are **DONE!** You will get an email confirmation and your instrument will be delivered to Mrs. Belloni at SJC. Mrs. B will take care of delivering your student's instrument to them on the first day of band.