

All About.....

# THE SJC SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM

2020-2021

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Mr. Craig Hirotsuka [chirotsuka@gmail.com](mailto:chirotsuka@gmail.com)

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## 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 as the name might suggest. Mr. H has been teaching band at SJC since 2011.

## Who is our Band Director?

Our band director is Mr. Craig Hirotsuka. "Mr. H" has 29 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 in the Fremont Union High School District. Mr. H 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 friendly manner, "Mr. H" makes band fun and he loves being part of the SJC's community.

## When is band class?

Indoor band rehearsals are prohibited this school year per both the Board of Health and Board of Education. As a result, band will transition to be an after school activity utilizing Zoom, with small group sectionals held at every level of band. Sectionals are broken down as follows: Flutes, Clarinet and Saxophones (Reeds), Trumpet and Trombones (Brass), and Drums. Each sectional will meet for 30 minutes a week.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1:00-1:30			*Advanced Flutes		
1:35-2:05			*Advanced Clarinets, Sax		
2:10-2:40			*Advanced Trumpet, Trombone		
3:00-3:30	*Intermediate Flutes		Beginning Flutes		Beginning Drums
3:35-4:05	*Intermediate Clarinets, Sax		Beginning Clarinets, Sax		*Intermediate Drums
4:10-4:40	*Intermediate Trumpet, Trombone		Beginning Trumpet, Trombone		*Advanced Drums

### **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 string instruments like piano or violin.

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

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

- A one-time payment of \$405 for the full school year; payment due upon registration which will then be charged to your FACTS account.

**OR**

- A payment of \$200 due upon registration which will then be charged to your FACTS account; A second payment of \$215 will be charged to your FACTS account in January.

**Band books** will need to be purchased separately by each student/family. See the included pages of this document 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. [West Valley Music](#) offers basic instrument (flute, clarinet, trumpet, or snare drum) lease starting at ~\$30.00 a month. West Valley Music is the preferred instrument rental provider for SJC band students. *Mr. H and Mrs. Belloni highly recommend that beginning students LEASE or RENT an instrument, as opposed to purchasing one.* [See this info sheet for details and rates on rental and lease fees](#) for West Valley Music. Please note that West Valley charges a one time deposit when renting an instrument. You may try an instrument before you pick by making an appointment with West Valley Music. The employees and the store need to prepare for your instrument demos due to COVID-19 safety protocols that are in place.

### **When does band start?**

Advanced and Intermediate band rehearsals will start the week of Sept. 7th. Beginning band needs to start later in order to give families time to obtain an instrument. Therefore, Beginning band will start the week of Sept. 21st. *If you are renting or leasing a new instrument, be sure to do so as soon as possible so that your student will have their instrument in time to start in September!*

### **How do I register for band?**

Register your student for band by [submitting this enrollment form](#) via google form no later than Tuesday, September 8th. No paper forms are being used this year for band registration.

### **How do I lease an instrument through West Valley Music?**

Mr. H and Mrs. Belloni highly recommend renting or doing a lease/rent-to-own program for beginning students. You can [lease an instrument online](#) easily through West Valley Music in Mountain View, our preferred provider.

### **How do I purchase my band book? Which band book do I need?**

SJC uses the STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE – BOOK 1 for both Beginning and Intermediate band programs. Note that this book comes in two formats. The Enhanced Version includes accompaniment and practice CDs and runs around \$10. Either format is fine for use in our program. The publisher offers the accompaniment .mp3 files for free on their website at:

[http://www.kjos.com/band/soe\\_accomp.htm](http://www.kjos.com/band/soe_accomp.htm)

You can purchase your book from West Valley Music if you are using them to rent or lease an instrument. You are also welcome to [purchase your band book online](#) through your favorite vendor. Here are the ISBN numbers for your convenience if you do purchase online.

<b>Instrument</b>	<b>ISBN-10</b>
Flute	849707501
Clarinet	849707536
Alto Sax	849707560
Percussion	849707668
Trumpet	849707595
Trombone	849707617
French Horn	849707609

Materials for Advanced Band students are provided by Mr. H at no additional cost.

## **REGISTRATION CHECK LIST FOR NEW BAND STUDENTS:**

- 1) Complete the SJC Band Registration google form by Tuesday 9/8/2020
- 2) Rent or lease an instrument.
- 3) Purchase your Standard of Excellence Band Book
- 4) Intermediate and Advanced Band Zooms begin Weds 9/9/2020.  
Beginning Band Zooms begin Weds 9/23/2020. Mrs. B and Mr. H will confirm your registration via email and will inform you of the Zoom details prior to your first rehearsal via google classroom, parentsquare group, and/or email.

## **REGISTRATION CHECK LIST FOR RETURNING BAND STUDENTS:**

- 1) Complete the SJC Band Registration google form by Tuesday 9/8/2020
- 2) Intermediate Band students should check that you still have your band book and reorder if necessary. (Advanced Band materials will be distributed via google classroom, parentsquare group, and/or email.)
- 3) Check that your instrument is in good working order and if not, [arrange for servicing right away with West Valley Music.](#)
- 4) Intermediate and Advanced Band Zooms begin Weds 9/9/2020. Mrs. B and Mr. H will confirm your registration via email and will inform you of the Zoom details prior to your first rehearsal via google classroom, parentsquare group, and/or email.

**We are looking forward to another great year of band at SJC!**

**Go Band!**

- Mr. Craig Hirotsuka and Mrs. Kama Belloni

***Don't forget these SJC's band program resources:***

- School's Fine Arts and Band Website: <http://music.sjcschool.org/>
- [ParentSquare](#) Band group (parents will be added after band registration)
- [Student Google Classrooms for Band and Fine Arts](#) (Organized by grade, students will be sent invites to their school email addresses to join the classroom. Each classroom will have dedicated band information and materials.)