

# 2023 Kohler Beginning 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Summer Instruction Schedule

	Monday, August 14	Tuesday, August 15	Wednesday, Aug. 16	Thursday, Aug. 17	Friday, August 18
8:00-8:45 am	FLUTES	OBOE	FLUTES		
9:00-9:45 am	TRUMPETS	ALTO SAXOPHONES	TRUMPETS	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Full Week of August</b>	
10:00-10:45 am	CLARINETS	BASSOON	CLARINETS		
11:30-12:15 pm	TROMBONES	BARITONE	TROMBONES		
12:30-1:15 pm	TUBA	ALL PERCUSSION	TUBA		
1:30-2:15 pm	F HORNS	TENOR SAXOPHONES	F HORNS		

	Monday, August 21	Tuesday, August 22	Wednesday, Aug. 23	Thursday, Aug. 24	Friday, Aug. 25
8:00-8:45 am	OBOE	FLUTES & OBOES			
9:00-9:45 am	ALTO SAXOPHONES	TRUMPETS	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Full Week of August</b>		
10:00-10:45 am	BASSOON	All CLARINETS			
11:30-12:15 pm	BARITONE	TROMBONES/BAS SOON BARITONE/TUBAS			
12:30-1:15 pm	ALL PERCUSSION	F HORNS			
1:30-2:15 pm	TENOR SAXOPHONES	ALTO & TENOR SAXOPHONES			

## Kohler Bands – It’s an Academic Tradition!

If you are like me, you want your kid(s) to complete their K-12 education with a balanced education so they are ready to take on the world. One facet of that balanced education is music. The Kohler band program has a fine academic tradition. Students will learn more life skills than you can imagine. Ask anyone who has been part of the Kohler bands.

Students will learn the patience to persist through challenging tasks, develop the ability to delay gratification and develop the curiosity and grit to solve problems; just to name a few.

The success of the Kohler band program is in part due to the support of parents who understand and value a balanced education. You see, your child will not receive an instrument with the expectation that they would become a professional musician, just as they did not receive a math book with the expectation of them becoming a mathematician. But, unlike any other subject, your child has the opportunity to develop some of the most important life skills through learning to play an instrument.





## Questions and Answers about the Sixth Grade Beginning

**Who May Take Band?** You do not need to know how to play an instrument before taking band. You will learn how to play during small group instruction and rehearsals. You will be expected to practice and take your instrument home to develop your skills.

**Can I Join Band After Sixth Grade?** It is very difficult to start on an instrument if you don't try one in sixth grade. The only beginning band class offered is in sixth grade. Students that start band after sixth grade must take private lessons to "catch-up" to the other members of their class.

**What Instruments Are Available?** We begin students on flute, oboe, clarinet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone and tuba. We also begin students on percussion which includes snare drum, bass drum, all mallet instruments and timpani. Two years of piano experience is required and all percussionist selected must pass a coordination and piano proficiency assessment.

**How Much Does It Cost?** It varies. Most students and their parents decide to rent an instrument from a music store so they can give it a try before purchasing a new or used instrument. Rental rates vary from \$20 to \$40 a month depending on the instrument and the music store. Students may also use instruments that other family members have played. Some of the instruments are so large and expensive (eg. tuba) that the school provides them for a yearly \$50 rental fee.

**Where Do I Get An Instrument?** There are several options.

1. Music stores such as [White House of Music](#). (rental or purchase)
2. Family
3. Friends or past graduates
4. School. The school rents some instruments like tubas for \$50/year.

**How Often Do I Have Band Rehearsals or Small Group Instruction?** During the school year, the beginning band two-days a week and every other Friday as part of the academic course offerings. Each student will participate in small group instruction after school one day per week.

**What About Summer Band?** All beginning band students entering sixth grade are expected to participate in our Summer Lesson Program! This program begins in August (see Summer Lesson Schedule for exact days based on the instrument selected.) Students will receive rental instruments at their first small group lesson and learn the basics of their instrument before the beginning of the school year.

# Things Parents Must Tell Their Children When They Begin a Musical Instrument

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The success of the Kohler band program is in part due to the support of parents who understand and value a balanced education. You see, your child didn't receive an instrument with the expectation that they would become a professional musician, just as they did not receive a math book with the expectation of them becoming a mathematician. But, unlike any other subject, your child has the opportunity to develop some of the most important life skills through learning to play an instrument, and you need to let them know this is the case.

Here are three things parents need to know and be able to express to their child as soon as they begin learning to play a musical instrument:



1. **“You are allowed to fail, and you will become better because of your failures.”** There are no red pen marks for missed notes in music the way there are on tests — there is nothing to feel bad about when you play something “wrong” in music. To become skilled at a musical instrument — and to become great at *anything* — one needs to struggle a little. In your child’s case, they need to sound bad before they sound good; they need to work on things *just beyond* what they are capable of in order to get better and smarter, and that means they need to make mistakes. There is a small gap between what we all are able to do and where we want to be, and focusing on that gap makes us better learners and better people. Learning a musical instrument allows us to grow from our mistakes.
2. **“Hard works trumps talent every single time.”** Practicing a skill over and over, the right way, fires circuits in our brains that solidify that skill. Sure, some people find some skills easier at first than others, but the people who practice that skill daily in order to “burn it” into their brain will always far surpass people who don’t practice enough. Practicing a musical instrument helps children learn the universal truth that hard work trumps talent.
3. **“This is a long-term commitment, and we are going to stick with it.”** Studies have shown that students who identified that they would play their instrument for longer than one year outperformed students who only committed to one year of playing by up to 400% – *practicing the same amount of time if not less!* The ideas and mindsets students bring to their musical instrument study have a direct effect on their success, and it’s the parents’ role to set the tone on the first day by not giving their child an “easy out” to quit. Make the decision to invest in your child’s music education for at least a few years of their schooling and you will see results.

There are not many subjects taught in school that have the potential to give our children the life skills they need to be successful beyond their school lives. Our children can learn how to have grit, motivation, problem-solving skills, flexibility, and *character* during and after their K-12 schooling — and music is the vehicle to teach these skill.

For instrument rental information,  
click on:

[White House of Music](#)  
Julie Hamm - Representative  
2101 North Springdale Road  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
toll free: 877-795-3484

Questions about the band program,  
contact:

Claire Dickson  
Instrumental Music Teacher  
[dicksonc@kohler.k12.wi.us](mailto:dicksonc@kohler.k12.wi.us)  
920-803-7266