

6th Grade Music

Willows Preparatory School 2018-19

Mr. Benjamin Dysart

Dear Willows Parents and Families,

Welcome! Willows Prep is a unique school in that every student participates in Concert Band. With your help, together we can help your child have a successful musical experience.

Instruments

In 6th grade students can play flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone, or percussion.

Instrumentation is dictated by the balance of the band and student aptitude. Through 7th and 8th grade we expand instrumentation to include oboe, bass clarinet, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, French horn, and tuba.

Practice Policy

As of this year I do not require practice slips from students, however they are expected to practice at home. During the first week of school I sent home a letter detailing practice expectations. Students are expected to practice 5 times a week for about 20 minutes.

Performances

Below is a list of the performance dates for the year. All students are expected to attend and participate in concerts.

- Veteran's Day Concert November 8th (8th Grade only)
- Winter Concert December 6th
- Pacific Northwest Band Festival February 11th (8th Grade only)
- Collaboration Concert April 26th
- Arts Showcase May 30th

Students are expected to wear concert dress to all performances. Boys may wear a black button up shirt and black pants. Shoes should be black with black socks. Girls may wear a black blouse and pants or an appropriate length black dress. Shoes should be black flats (no heels please).

Grading

Our local grade is based on daily participation (35%), performance attendance (35%), playing assessments (15%), and written assessments (15%). IB Grades are based on a set of four criterion: Knowing and Understanding, Developing Skills, Thinking Creatively, and Responding and Reflecting.

For further information or questions please contact me at bendysart@willowsprep.com.

I look forward to having a great musical year with your child.

Sincerely,

Ben Dysart

Curriculum Outline

Trimester 1

Students will study the fundamentals of how to assemble, maintain, and produce sound on their instruments. They will cover basic music literacy concepts including simple rhythms, note identification, accidentals, key signatures and time signatures. Students will also review proper playing posture and position. Formative assessments include the concert Bb major scale playing test, self-reflections, and written music theory tests.

As a summative assessment, students will demonstrate their understanding of these concepts and skills at their winter concert.

Trimester 2

After establishing some fundamentals, students will extend their instrument range and refine their embouchure and technique. Students will improve these skills by playing more complex music, and through exercises focused on tuning and tone production. Formative assessments include the chromatic scale playing test, self-reflection, group critique, and a creative composition project.

Students will perform a summative assessment in the form of the collaboration concert.

Trimester 3

The final trimester will build on skills developed in trimesters one and two. Students will rehearse pieces with increasingly varied rhythm and complex harmony. Students will study exercises focused on extending dynamic range and expression. Students will be asked to analyze music for intent and infer meaning. Formative assessments include detailed reflections in rehearsal and practice progress.

Students will complete a summative assessment in the form of their spring Celebration of the Arts concert.