

WEST SUBURBAN HOME SCHOOL BAND

2024-2025 Cadet Band Requirements

Cadet band is designed for students and adults with little or no prior music experience. As has been stated elsewhere on our website, there is no audition for Cadets. It is to the student's advantage for the parent(s) to contact the director Mrs. Karen Borow, at [Link to Contact Director](#) as early as possible, before fall, to explore instrument choices and learn more about the program. Your next step is deciding what instrument you are interested in playing. While some may already have a very definite idea, others may not. If the instrument choice is known, you can skip the rest of this paragraph. Otherwise, for any student wishing to learn about the various instrument choices, and to help them make a decision, you are encouraged to contact the director, to make an appointment for one of the five instrument tryout opportunities at her home over the summer. **Prior appointment must be made with director, Mrs. Borow.** The dates for 2024 are 5/28, 6/25, 7/30, 8/27 and 9/5. With your mom or dad, she will schedule a time on one of those dates to allow you to try all the instruments to determine which one best suits you and your inclinations.

After the instrument choice has been made, you need to acquire the instrument. The band has a large inventory of used instruments at nominal rental fees for band members. Check with the director, Mrs. Karen Borow, about the band's rates and available instruments. Parents may choose to rent or buy an instrument from a music store. We also have a list of Music and Instrument Stores on our **Forms/Documents** webpage under general information. Here are a few random names from that list:

- Ellman's Music Center, 503 W 5th Ave, Naperville, (630) 355-5880
- Naperville Music, 636 E Ogden Ave, Naperville (next to Kentucky Fried Chicken) 1-888-355-1404. They have a 3 month, introductory rate for rental instruments.
- Music and Arts, 907 W Irving Park Road near Rt, 53, Itasca, (630) 285-1485
- Horn Stash (Sales division of Fix This! Instrument Repair), 744 E Northwest Highway Palatine, (847) 359-4444

Once you have an instrument you will need a few more things. The next most important is the [Home Helper](#) book w/CD which is more foundational with weekly lessons. The earlier in the summer you start using this resource, the better. After completing [Home Helper](#), if you wish, you may start working on the first two pages in [Essential Elements for Band, Book 1 "Gold"](#) which will be the first two week's band assignment. (Or you can use [Essential Elements 2000](#), Book 1, "Gold" the older title, which has the same contents.)

Student and adult musicians need to print and **complete the Winter Registration Form**, which can be found on our **FORMS/DOCUMENTS** webpage. There is a place for you to indicate your choice(s) for the required Booster hours, the Commitment page and a Handbook Agreement to sign. Due to increasing conflicts with other activities, all members are required to complete the Commitment page which is the third page of the Registration Form. You will need to list known conflicts/absences and a parent's signature is required. **Include any applicable rental forms and fees** for students and adults alike. The **deadline** for registration and applicable rentals forms is **TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2024**. There is a discount for three or more children with the fee schedule shown on the registration form. Mail your completed registration, applicable rental form(s) **and** check to the address on the form. [No checks will be accepted without a completed form and vice-versa.](#)

NEW MEMBERS' NOTE: All new members are required to accompany your parent(s) to the **Overview and Orientation** meeting sometime in September, stay tuned. Once set, our online **CALENDAR** will give the exact date, time and location for this meeting as well as for the first band practice.

While cadets are not featured at the WSHSB formal concerts, Cadets have two separate performances, winter and spring, for their families during their regular rehearsal time. Specifics are included in the weekly Rehearsal Notes after details are finalized.

Students may repeat the Cadet level instructions as many seasons as is necessary, based on the parents'/director's evaluation. Cadets who choose to repeat or do not pass to Concert Junior do not continue with new material the second year, rather they start at the beginning of the book with all the new Cadets.

SPECIAL NOTICE FOR CADETS AND FIRST YEAR JUNIOR PERCUSSIONISTS - For a Cadet (beginner) percussionist, the focus is on developing rhythms and skills on bells. However, there must be equivalent time spent doing the same on snare, bass, and other percussion instruments. Therefore, it is expected of Cadet percussion students, who pass the Junior audition, to attend Cadet band for a second concert season, September through May, in addition to attending Junior band rehearsals.

This serves a two-fold purpose. Because Junior percussionists play a variety of percussion instruments their time on drums is limited. Playing with the Cadet Band they play other instruments beside bells which further develops their rhythmic reading skills. While doing so they provide the necessary drum beat while the new Cadets learn to play the bells.

REMINDER for Adult Helpers – no audition required for Cadet or Junior band. Adult helpers wishing to move up to Senior or Symphonic need to produce a one-time, acceptable audition.

**All equipment and books on the lists below,
must be clearly LABELED with the student's name.**

SUPPLIES FOR ALL CADETS (additional percussion supplies follow this list)

- **Working instrument**, with labeled case or equipment bag
- **Folding music stand** label all parts, if there is a music stand case, it too should be labeled.
- **Recommended** - BOOK w/CD - **HOME HELPER: FIRST LESSONS AT SCHOOL AND AT HOME** (instrument specific) by James O. Froseth, GIA publications, Inc
Link if you can't find it in stores - <http://www.giamusic.com/products/P-homehelper.cfm>
It is **recommended** that all beginners obtain (purchase or borrow) the **Home Helper** book earlier in the summer.
- **REQUIRED - BOOK - ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS for Band, BOOK 1 "Gold"** (instrument specific).
(Or you can use Essential Elements 2000, Book 1, "Gold" the older title, which has the same contents.)
*If you have any difficulty locating these books, we know they can be ordered online through JW Pepper. Allow 2 to 4 weeks for delivery. For additional resources see the "Music and Instrument Stores" document on **Forms/Documents***
- **Sharpened pencil** You should bring a pencil with you to band practice to make notes.
- **Metronome** - Recommended for Cadet daily practice at home.

ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES FOR CADET PERCUSSION

- **Bells on stand and mallets**
- **Practice drum pad on stand and sticks** (for second trimester)