

# Encouraging Your Student's Success on Their New Band Instrument!

Your encouragement and support is crucial to their success. This support can come from asking your child to perform for you, asking them about what they've learned, and in having regular dialogue with their instructor. It is also important to ensure your child is given enough time during the evening and weekends to balance practice with other classroom work.

The following are some tips that can guide you in better parent participation and in encouraging your student's success:

- Be sincerely interested. Constructive criticism does not harm a child, but indifference does.
- Help make sure your student is supplied with a quality instrument and the accessories needed to be a success.
- Ensure that the instrument is in accurate playing condition.
- Support your student's activity outside the class with instruction by a private teacher.
- Consult with your student's teacher on guidance during each phase of their development.
- Allow for suitable practice time for your student.
- Take an interest in your student's lesson preparations and acknowledge his/her progress. Many parents even find it rewarding to learn to play an instrument along with their child.
- Be active in your school's band parent organization, Willow Glen Performing Arts Boosters! Their website is located at [www.wgpab.com](http://www.wgpab.com). You can also find out what is going on in band and what our homework is by looking at [www.willowglenband.com](http://www.willowglenband.com). Homework for Beginning Band is on the "Beginning Band" page.
- Feel free to contact Mrs. Lee with any questions at: [mrslee@willowglenband.com](mailto:mrslee@willowglenband.com)

## Required Minimum Supplies For Each Instrument

- **Everyone:** music stand (wire, foldable, inexpensive variety)
- **Flute:** cleaning rag and cleaning rod
- **Oboe\*:** 2-3 working reeds at all times (medium soft strength to start), cleaning pull swab
- **Clarine\*t:** 2-3 working reeds at all times (#2 strength to start), cleaning pull swab, cork grease

- **Alto, Tenor, and Bari Saxophones\***: 2-3 working reeds at all times (#2 strength to start), cleaning pull swab, cork grease, neck strap
- **Trumpets, Baritones, Tuba**: valve oil, mouthpiece brush, slide grease
- **Trombone**: valve oil, mouthpiece brush, slide *grease*, small slide water spray bottle, slide *cream*, cleaning rag for the slide
- **Percussion**: one pair of snare drum sticks, one pair of marimba or xylophone mallets, one snare practice pad, one practice bells that they can borrow from Mrs. Lee

*\* Please make sure that you keep your student adequately supplied with reeds at all times. Reeds can and do break regularly. You can purchase them from music stores, or order them online. Purchasing an entire box at one time may afford you a bigger discount.*