



4th Grade Band Sign Ups



Your child participated in a Band Instrument Demonstration!!!

The Keene School District has a long history of excellence in music and performance. Fourth grade students can join this tradition by learning a band instrument! Over the course of your child's education, there are many unique and valuable benefits that playing a musical instrument can provide.

Benefits of the Elementary Band Program

- 1) Learning to play an instrument!
- 2) Small group instruction during school
- 3) Learning to play in an ensemble
- 4) Performing at least one concert per year
- 5) Making new friends
- 6) Developing confidence, self-discipline, and responsibility

Band Program Expectations

Instrument

Students/Parents are expected to provide an instrument to participate in the band program.

Options for getting an instrument:

1. Rent an instrument from Ellis Music (most common)
 2. Buy an instrument from a music store
 3. Use a previously owned (used) instrument from family member, friend, etc.
 4. Use a school owned instrument – limited number available in instances of financial need
- More information is provided on each option in the "How to Join Band" section.*

Lesson Book

Students/Parents are expected to provide a lesson book. The book we will use is "**Essential Elements 2000, Book 1**" for your instrument. Cost is \$7-10 (\$15 for percussion). It can be purchased at Rental Night or from Cheshire Music 357-4277 or Ellis Music 802-234-6400.

Additional Materials

Students/Parents are expected to provide a music stand for home practice. Cost is about \$18. You will also need to provide any item needed to play your instrument such as reeds, swabs, etc. (available at Rental Night) *A complete list of required materials for each instrument will be provided at rental night and is available upon request.*

Rental Night Meeting

**Tuesday, September 20th, 6:30pm
at Jonathan Daniels School Gym**

**ALL STUDENTS/PARENTS JOINING THE BAND PROGRAM
ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND THE RENTAL NIGHT
MEETING!**

Even if you are not renting an instrument, students and parents should come to the meeting. Plan to be there about an hour. A short informational meeting begins at 6:30pm. You will also get a band handbook. You will be able to rent instruments, buy the lesson book, music stand, reeds, accessories etc. Keene Music staff will be available to play test your used instrument, sign out school instruments, and give a "first lesson" on how to put your instrument together. *More information on Rental Night in "How to Join Band" section.*

Lessons

Band lessons will begin the week of September 26th. Lessons are 30 minutes, once a week during school and continue until the end of the school year. Students are expected to bring their instrument on lesson day and to attend weekly lessons. Lesson groups are arranged by Mrs. Clark after Rental Night. Lesson days and times and times will be announced prior to September 26th.

Practice

Band students are expected to practice a minimum of 15 minutes a day, 5 days a week for a total of 75 minutes per week. I highly encourage parents to set up and maintain a practice schedule for your child. Practice is essential for progress, and parents who help set aside a time each day set their children up for success.

Keene Elementary Band (KEB) Ensemble

KEB begins Tuesday, January 3rd. After a few months of lessons, students are ready to play in a large band ensemble. This ensemble is strongly recommended but is not required. KEB rehearsals are from 6:30-8:00pm on Tuesday nights from January through mid-April. Sign ups come home in October/November. The benefits of this group are: 1) Working with a high school mentor 2) Playing with students from the entire Keene School District 3) Learning the skills of playing as a band 4) Performing a public concert for friends and family 5) Faster progress. This program is a GREAT way to motivate students to keep playing and practicing!

There is a small participation fee of \$20 for KEB (includes music and a T-shirt). However, any student may participate regardless of financial situation. Scholarship money is readily available upon request.

How to Join Band

1. Return Sign Up Form
2. Attend Rental Night Meeting
3. Get an instrument, book, and supplies

This section will explain the three steps to joining band in detail. Please read this section carefully. If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Clark (kclark@sau29.org or Jonathan Daniels School 352-8012).

STEP 1 ~ Return Sign Up Form

Please fill out the form included in this packet completely, and have your child return it to his/her classroom teacher by **Friday, September 16th.**

STEP 2 ~ Attend Rental Night Meeting

ALL STUDENTS AND PARENTS JOINING THE BAND PROGRAM ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND THE RENTAL NIGHT MEETING ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH AT 6:30PM AT JONATHAN DANIELS GYM.

This is one of the most important dates for the band program! Plan to be there about an hour. Please put this date on your calendar and make every effort to attend. If you are unable to be there, please contact Mrs. Clark (kclark@sau29.org or 352-8012) ahead of time to make arrangements for an instrument and your participation. Your child can still sign up for band! *I would also encourage you to call Ellis Music at 802-234-6400 to rent an instrument so your child will be able to start lessons on time with everyone else. Ellis Music will walk you through the process, and an instrument can be dropped off at the school for your child to pick up.*

STEP 3 ~ Get an instrument, book, and supplies

There are 4 main options for getting an instrument for the band program. Each option is listed on the next page, as well as procedures to follow during Rental Night. You will be asked to select one of these options on the sign up form.

What instrument should we choose?

Instrument choices should be based on several factors, including: size of student, sound he/she prefers, personality, musical skill level, time available for practice, etc. Information about each instrument can be found on the band's webpage at: www.sau29.com/keeneelementaryband298.html Still need help choosing? Feel free to contact me or your child's music teacher!

1. Rent an instrument** from Ellis Music of Bethel, VT (most common) Ellis Music provides affordable instruments and allows you to fill out a rental agreement and get your instrument all in one night. A parent needs to be there to sign the rental agreement. Please see the attached sheet for rates and additional information on the rental program. If you have questions, Ellis Music representatives (802-234-6400) are happy to help you. At Rental Night, you will receive a number when you arrive; instruments will be distributed in that order. Doors will open at 6pm for numbers. The short informational meeting is at 6:30pm, and instruments are distributed/paid for following the meeting as well as the lesson book, reeds, etc. Once you have your instrument, you may attend an optional "first lesson" with Keene Music Staff.

***Please be aware that a balanced instrumentation is necessary for the success of the band program, and that first choice of instruments can not always be accommodated. I will make every effort to work with you and your child to find an agreeable instrument*

2. Buy an instrument from a music store

I recommend renting for beginners. But, if you decide to buy an instrument I advise that you purchase it from a music store. *I do not recommend buying from the internet (Craigslist, eBay, etc.) because there are a lot of low quality instruments that make it difficult for beginners to make a sound and tend to break easily.*

If you buy a brand new instrument or a used instrument in good working condition (meaning it has been serviced) you will only need to attend the short Rental Night informational meeting at 6:30pm and get your book, stand, and other required materials. Once you have everything, you may attend an optional "first lesson" with Keene Music Staff.

3. Use a previously owned (used) instrument

This option is for families who have access to an instrument from an older sibling, family member, friend, etc. If this applies to you, the best thing to do is to take the instrument to a music store with a repair shop (such as Cheshire Music) to have it serviced. If it has been sitting around for a while (even a few months), chances are it will need some work. For woodwind instruments this can be costly, but probably not more than you would pay to rent the instrument for the year. If you have your instrument serviced at a music store, you will only need to attend the short Rental Night informational meeting at 6:30pm and get your book, stand, and other required materials. Once you have everything, you may attend an optional "first lesson" with Keene Music Staff.

You may also bring your used instrument to Rental Night at 6:00pm to have it checked by Keene Music Staff. If it is not in good condition, you will still be able to rent an instrument that night. If it looks/sounds good, you can attend the 6:30 meeting, get your materials, and attend the optional "first lesson" with Keene Music Staff.

4. Use a school owned instrument

If your child is interested in joining the band program, but the cost of renting/purchasing an instrument is prohibitive for your family at this time, there are a limited number of school instruments available on a first-come-first-served basis. Please contact Mrs. Clark (kclark@sau29.org or 352-8012) for information about which instruments are available.

School instruments will be distributed at Rental Night at 6:00pm (for students who have contacted Mrs. Clark). Then, you can stay for the short informational meeting at 6:30pm, get your book, stand, and other required materials, and attend the optional "first lesson" with Keene Music Staff.

I know this is a lot of information, so please don't hesitate to contact me (email is best). I would be happy to answer any questions you might have. PLEASE KEEP THIS PACKET FOR YOUR REFERENCE!

I look forward to meeting you and your child!
Sincerely,

Kimberly Clark
kclark@sau29.org
352-8012
www.sau29.com/keeneelementaryband298.html

Ellis Music
Bethel, VT
802-234-6400

Cheshire Music
The Center at Keene
357-4277