

JOIN THE REDWOOD VIKING BAND!

Do you play an instrument? Have you ever wanted to? Come be a part of the largest organization at Redwood, the Viking Band! Over one hundred students play in our bands every year. You could be one of them!

Beginning Band: This class is open to all students. No experience needed. Beginning Band students participate in performances throughout the year including the winter concert, spring picnic concert, graduation, All District Band Festival and all Viking Band performances (including the spring trip)!

Concert Band: Redwood's intermediate band. All incoming 6th or 7th grade students who have 1-2 years of elementary band experience or who are currently taking private lessons may sign up for Concert band. Students participate in the same performances as the Beginning Band plus a judged Ratings Festival.

Symphonic Band: Redwood's advanced band. It is open to students who have completed at least one year of Middle School Intermediate Band. Extra time is required outside of class for performance and rehearsal. This class is for the highly motivated and committed musician. The Symphonic Band performs at school concerts, assemblies, graduation and the All District Band Festival as well as several Ratings Festivals (consistently receiving Superior ratings). Students may participate in Solo & Ensemble Festivals as well as auditioning for various honor bands. This year we had students accepted into both the Ventura County and All-State Honor Bands.

Viking Band: This is Redwood's Award winning Marching Band. All three band classes (Beginning, Concert and Symphonic) combine to form the Viking Band. Performances include the Conejo Valley Days Parade (on television!), at least one competition parade and the spring band trip. Last year the Viking Band won the Sweepstakes Award at the Fillmore Parade competition, beating all other bands (including all of the high schools!). The band will take a spring performance trip and has recently traveled to San Diego, Knott's Berry Farm, Magic Mountain and Disneyland! The Viking band also performs at the Awards Night and at local elementary schools.

"A" Period PE: All band students have the option of signing up for "A" period PE. By taking "A" period PE, Band students have time available in their schedule to take another Elective as well as band. They no longer have to choose between Band and something else. During the warmer months, it's great to have PE class in the morning before the hotter part of the day.

TO ENROLL: Fill out the form below and mail to Redwood Middle School: 233 Gainsborough Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360. **Forms due Friday, May 29, 2009.** For more information, contact band director Adam Payne or the Redwood Counseling office.

Student Name _____ Current Grade _____

Parent Name _____ E-Mail Address _____ Phone # _____

Instrument _____ Years of experience _____

Level: Beginning Band Concert Band
I am currently taking private lessons and would like to audition for Symphonic Band
I am interested in "A" Period PE Class

CELEBRITY MUSICIANS!

We are all familiar with many famous musicians but I bet you didn't know that these famous and important people played instruments too. It's a proven fact that people who participate in school music programs are more successful in academics and other non-musical activities. Just look through the list below!

Athletes

Vince Carter, NBA All-Star- Euphonium, Saxophone & Drum Major of his high school marching band

Oscar Robertson, NBA Hall of Famer- Flute (jazz)

Bernie Williams, MLB All Star Baseball player-
Classical Guitar

Marcus Allen, Former NFL Football Player- Piano

Tedy Bruschi, New England Patriots Linebacker-
Saxophone

Keith Jackson, Former Greenbay Packers Tight End-
Cello

Melvin Paige, Former New Orleans Saints Guard-
Several instruments and member of high school band

Trevor Pryce, Denver Broncos Defensive End- Drums

Dennis Green, Arizona Cardinals Head Coach- Drums

Presidents & Political Leaders

John Quincy Adams, 6th US President- Flute

Thomas Jefferson, 3rd US President, Cello & Violin

Prince Charles of England- Trumpet, Cello & Piano

Bill Clinton, 42nd US President- Saxophone

Frederick II, King of Prussia- Flute

Benjamin Franklin, Statesman- Violin, Guitar & Harp

Richard Lugar, US Senator- Cello & Piano

Actors and Entertainers

Jennifer Garner, Actress- Saxophone (member of high school band) & Piano

Richard Gere, Actor-Saxophone & piano

Julia Roberts, Actress- Oboe & Clarinet

Alyssa Milano, Actress- Flute & Piano

Jeff & Beau Bridges, Actors-Piano

Drew Carey, Actor & Comedian-Trumpet & Cornet

Clint Eastwood, Actor/Director- Piano (jazz)

Jonathan Frakes, Actor/Director-Trombone

Jamie Foxx, Actor-Piano

Kelsey Grammar, Actor- Piano

Emeril Lagasse, TV show host and Chef- drums

Scientists, Business Leaders and other famous people

Alan Greenspan, Former Federal Reserve Chairman-
Professional Saxophone player

Neil Armstrong- Astronaut- Euphonium

Ronald McNair- Astronaut- Saxophone

Benjamin Banneker, Astronomer-Flute

George Eastman, Founder of Kodak- Flute

Albert Einstein, Physicist, Violin and Piano

COME JOIN THE REDWOOD VIKING BAND!

For more information or to enroll, contact band director Adam Payne or the Redwood Counseling office.
For a more complete list of celebrity musicians, go to www.menc.org and look up "Celebrity Orchestra"

REDWOOD VIKING BAND

Frequently Asked Questions

What instruments can my student play in the Redwood Band?

Flute, Oboe*, Clarinet (or Bass Clarinet), Saxophone (Alto, Tenor or Baritone), Bassoon*, Trumpet, French Horn*, Trombone, Euphonium* (sometimes referred to as a Baritone), Tuba* and Percussion. String Bass (both acoustic and electric) players are also welcome but generally only with private lessons and previous experience. Instruments with a * symbol are what are referred to as “scholarship instruments”. Middle School, High School and University bands are always in short supply of players for these instruments and college scholarships are often relatively easy to earn compared with other instruments.

How do we choose an instrument?

Students rarely succeed in learning an instrument they are not interested in. We will give beginning students the opportunity to try just about every instrument we offer. Their ability to produce sound will be evaluated and recommendations will be made although the ultimate decision belongs to the student and parents.

I don't own an instrument, where can I get one?

We have a limited selection of instruments available for student's use. These instruments are available on a first come, first served basis. The best situation is to rent an instrument as they are in new or almost new condition and many stores have rent-to-own plans. Don't purchase an instrument right away as some students end up switching instruments. We can recommend a list of quality instruments for beginning, intermediate or advanced students.

How are students in the band classes graded?

The major portion of a student's grade is based on their Practice Sheet. Students keep a record of time spent at home practicing their instrument. The grading scale is printed right on the sheet and students mark their own grade. Students may count private lessons, honor band rehearsals and after school band rehearsals (marching practice, section practice) as practice time. Students also are graded on playing tests. Students must attend all performances. If they miss a performance without prior approval, their grade will be lowered.

Band sounds like it takes a lot of time. How much time outside of class is required?

The Viking Band (made up of all three band classes) rehearses after school two days per week from about mid-February until May. The number of performances outside of school time varies each year and a schedule will be given out each semester. Symphonic Band requires the biggest time commitment, which is why incoming students will be assigned to the Beginning Band or Concert Band.

My child has been playing their instrument for several years and is coming in as a sixth grader. Can he/she sign up for Symphonic Band?

Symphonic Band, which is our most advanced group, has the busiest performance and practice schedule of the three classes. It requires the most commitment from students and parents. If a sixth grader is interested in Symphonic Band, they may audition for Symphonic Band upon recommendation from their elementary band teacher. They also must be taking private lessons by a qualified teacher.

Why do you recommend private lessons?

Private lessons benefit beginners as well as the most advanced students. A student gets individualized instruction that helps them develop as a player. We maintain a list of private teachers for all instruments that have proven success with students at all ages.

Why not just do private lessons and not sign up for band?

In Band, students learn teamwork and responsibility as well as valuable musical skills that can't be achieved one on one. They learn to blend, balance and tune with others. They learn to follow a conductor. Band class and private lessons are interlinked and important to the overall success of the student.

Are private lessons mandatory?

No they are not. Private lessons are heartily recommended but students will not be penalized in any way for not taking them.

Do students ever get specialized help within the band itself?

Yes. We have several staff members as well as some volunteers who will come in and work with groups of students. We have a brass instructor and a percussion instructor. We also have specialists come in to work with clarinets, bassoons, oboes and other instruments as opportunities permit.

What are the financial obligations?

There is a \$52 uniform fee and students need to purchase a Redwood band shirt, pants, and marching shoes used at performances. Students are also expected to participate in fundraising activities.