



Transfiguration Catholic School

6135 15th Street North • Oakdale MN 55128 • 651-501-2220, fax: 651-501-2258
www.transfigurationmn.org • tiger@transfigurationmn.org

Band Program 2017-2018 Parent Handbook

Mrs. Laura Thompson, Band Director
ltompson@transfigurationmn.org

Band will be held Monday through Friday. Each student will participate in one 1/2 hour small group lesson (2-4 students) and one 1/2 hour band rehearsal.

Lessons and band rehearsals will be scheduled during the regular school day. The schedule will be rotated as much as possible so that students will not miss the same classes each week. Each month, a schedule/calendar for lessons and full band will be sent home and students will receive a paper copy.

To read the schedule, find your student's lesson group and look at that week to see when their lesson time is. Band rehearsal dates rotate slightly with the music schedule.

Students may also want to participate in extra ensembles at school such as jazz band. Jazz band will be an additional 1/2 hour rehearsal each week. In addition, there are opportunities that our partnership with other schools in the area provides:

Band Festival: Free — Must have finished at least one year of band

Honor Band: Free — Students who are ready for a challenge musically will be nominated for this event by Mrs. Thompson. Students nominated must pass an audition to participate in Honor Band

Solo & Ensemble Contest: Free — Open to any student, beginner through 8th grade.

Practicing

Practicing at home is very important. With only one lesson and one band rehearsal per week, practicing at home will help students to see more improvement from week to week. It is important to set aside practice time each day. 30 minutes for 5—7 days is a good rule of thumb. Music is similar to any sport, math or reading, practicing a little each day is more effective than a long session on one day. Some ideas to encourage practice at home: encourage your student to plan practice into their homework schedule. If your student watches an hour of live TV, encourage them to practice during commercials — that is 20 minutes of practice right there!

Students should record their practice times, and should be signed by a parent every week.

Tuition

Tuition is the fee for lessons and band rehearsals. It includes purchase of band supplies and music.

Tuition rates are as follows:

Deposit (Spring)	First Installment (September)	Second Installment (January)	TOTAL
\$100	\$200	\$200	\$500
\$0	\$250	\$250	\$500

Those who sign up for the following year, and place a deposit in April or May, will have summer lessons at Transfiguration as part of their tuition. Times for the summer lessons will be determined at the end of the school year.

Tuition for the band program will be billed through TADS.

Enrollment is for a full semester. No refunds will be given for students who do not finish a semester.

Expectations

Students are expected to have their instrument and music every rehearsal day and every lesson day. If your student has a test, they should talk to Mrs. Thompson **before** school so that Mrs. Thompson can schedule a make-up time.

Students are also required to participate in all scheduled concerts and performances. Concerts are the equivalent of a “final test” in band. It is imperative that every student is there and participates. Our band is not complete without every student present!

Concerts

We perform at the Christmas Concert and Spring concert. These performances are required. Concerts are the equivalent of a final test in any other subject and it is vital that everyone is in attendance. Everyone’s part matters and everyone plays an important role in the band.

Benefits of Learning a Musical Instrument

1. Increases the capacity of memory.
2. Refines time management and organizational skills.
3. Boosts team skills.
4. Teaches perseverance.
5. Enhances coordination.
6. Better mathematical ability.
7. Improves reading and comprehension.
8. Increases responsibility.
9. Exposes you to cultural history.
10. Sharpens concentration.
11. Fosters self-expression and relieves stress
12. Creates a sense of achievement.
13. Promotes social skills.
14. Boosts listening skills.
15. Teaches discipline.
16. Elevates performance skills and reduces stage fright.
17. Enhances respiratory system.
18. Promotes happiness and joy