

Dear Parents and Students,

This is the time of year when the St. Alphonsus Band invites new beginners to join our program. Students who join our Band will learn how to play an instrument, read music, and perform as an ensemble.

The decision of whether to join the school band is an important one. There are many advantages to learning music, and playing in a band in particular. Here are some of these benefits:

- Students who play a band instrument for two or more years score 10 percentile points higher in reading and 12 percentile points higher in language on average than their non-band peers.
- Band students score an average of 62 points higher on SAT tests.
- High school music students have a higher grade point average than other students in the same school.
- Of those who apply to medical school, 66% of music majors are admitted, higher than any other group, including biochemistry majors.
- Group music activities help social skills by teaching students to form a commitment, work together toward a goal, and form a bond with their peers.

The earlier your child gets involved in playing a musical instrument, the greater the potential benefit both academically and socially. For this reason, our band program is open to children as young as 4th grade.

Please talk to your son or daughter about Band, and consider enrolling your child in this program. The Beginner group meets on Tuesday, Thursday, and every other Friday mornings at 7:15. Semester tuition is \$150 for the Fall and \$200 for the Spring, and your child will need to rent an instrument from Music and Arts (formerly Zeagler's Music) or another music store.

Please e-mail me with any questions. I look forward to teaching the Band students this year!

Sincerely,

Sarah Love

Music Teacher, Band Director

St. Alphonsus School