

Special Bands Information

As students progress, Future Musicians provides many opportunities for musical growth and enjoyment outside regular school concerts and activities. In these special groups, students come together from schools all over the state and learn to work as a cooperative unit. Participants have the opportunity to expand and share their musical skills by working with many different conductors and teachers. The following describes the special band opportunities provided by Future Musicians.

Future Musicians

Regional Bands

Our special groups begin in the fall when advanced band students are nominated to be members of one of our Regional Bands. These bands meet for approximately 5 rehearsals and then present their area concerts, usually in late October. All Regional Band members are invited to participate in our All-State Band concert as either members of the Concert Band or Symphonic Band.

All-State

Concert & Symphonic Bands

All student musicians from our Regional Bands are nominated to audition for our All-State Concert and Symphonic Bands. These bands rehearse for 5 rehearsals and present a major concert in late March. They also give special outdoor concerts in May, usually at the Old State House in Hartford and the Lincoln Center Plaza in New York City.

All-State Jazz Band

Jazz Band members are chosen by audition from the Concert and Symphonic Bands. They play classic stage band selections and perform at the All-State Band concert and at the Old State House.

All-State Gala Band

Second year and beyond students are invited to participate in our Gala Band. These students rehearse for three evenings in March and perform at the All-State Band concert.

If at any time, you have questions, comments or concerns, please contact your child's teacher, write comments on the report card or call our office at (860) 342-4485.

Future Musicians

Program Guide

Our Mission Statement

The overall mission of Future Musicians is to develop independent musicians. When students leave our program, they have acquired the skills necessary to read music and make musical judgments independent of an instructor. We strongly believe that every child is important and capable of learning an instrument. With the skills and experience acquired from Future Musicians, students have the foundation for a lifetime of musical pursuit. We work diligently to provide the strongest musical education for all of our students.

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The Future Musicians

September

- Enrollment begins
- Teachers hold demo assemblies & evening meetings for students & parents
- Students choose instruments and begin lessons & band rehearsals

October

- Regional Band auditions and rehearsals
- Regional Band concerts
- 3rd grade recorder program

November

- Report cards distributed
- Cadet Band parent Open House

December

- Christmas Concerts at each school

January

- Report cards distributed
- All-State auditions held

School Year at a Glance

February

- 3rd grade recorder 1/2 year program begins

March

- All-State Band rehearsals
- All-State Concert

April

- Report cards distributed

May

- Spring concerts at each school
- All-State Band performs at Lincoln Center & Old State House, Hartford

June

- Last lessons and band rehearsals
- Report cards distributed

Who We Are

Future Musicians Philosophy

• Future Musicians has provided successful music education programs for private and parochial schools since 1975. We have built a tradition of excellence with a strong commitment to educational goals. Our philosophy is stated in our teacher manual as follows:

Future Musicians is an educational organization functioning within private and parochial schools. As an educational organization, it strives to instill in students those qualities essential for their personal and musical development. Along with the teaching of music, a vital goal of the program is the development of good citizenship qualities such as responsibility, self-discipline, respect, reliability and cooperation. Students will grow both musically and personally when these qualities are present.

- Our Future Musicians instructors are dedicated teachers of music. Our faculty members attend a special orientation each year before school begins and they participate in teacher meetings and workshops throughout the school year. In addition to teaching lessons, band and holding concerts in their own schools, our teachers run special Regional and State programs.
- Instrumental music instruction is offered to students in grades 4-8 on the following instruments: flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone and percussion. As students progress, we also offer other band instruments.

Helping Your Music Student

Parents play a major role in a music student's success. Here are some ways to show interest and encourage your child. (You need not know how to read music or play an instrument to be a strong motivator.)

- Meet the teacher.
- Attend school concerts and band parent meetings.
- Encourage participation in our special bands.
- Encourage your child to play for you, the family or friends. Praise his or her efforts and encourage repetition when needed.
- Help your child to remember to take his or her instrument, book, stand, pencil and music folder to school for lessons.
- Be patient. It takes a full year of instruction to properly assess a student's interest, progress, and probability of success in instrumental music.

The most important factors contributing to your child's success are attendance (lessons, band rehearsals and concerts) and at home practice. Here are some ways to get the most out of practice time:

- Help your child to establish a daily practice routine.
- Be sure your child uses a music stand to ensure proper playing posture.
- Help record your child's progress on his/her practice card. Be sure to sign it each week.
- And most importantly, practice regularly. Do not try to do it all in one day.

General Program Information

Lessons and Band

- Future Musicians guarantees that weekly lessons will be offered throughout the school year.
- 30 minute small group lessons are given once a week during regular school hours. They are on a rotating schedule to ensure that students do not miss the same academic period each week.
- Beginners are grouped by like instruments. Advanced students can be grouped in ensembles of different instruments based on their ability. When qualified, students will also receive a band rehearsal, usually before or after school.

Concerts

- Band students present at least two concerts each year, as well as an in-school assembly program.

Tuition

- Parents have several options for payment and should see the enrollment form for the current fees.
- Due to regular school holidays and weather related cancellations, not every month will have the same number of lessons.
- Tuition is for lessons and band only. It does not cover the cost of a rental instrument.

Report Cards

- Report cards are distributed on the same schedule as the school academic report card. Please review, sign and return the card to the teacher.
- If you would like a teacher conference, please call ahead for an appointment.

Instruments

- If you do not own an instrument, Future Musicians recommends that you rent one from our preferred dealers. Rental forms are available from your teacher.
- Your child must bring the instrument to school on his/her lesson day and must remember to bring it home that same day. Do not leave the instrument at school.
- Do not store books or music stand in the instrument case. This may damage the instrument.
- Instruments should be kept in their cases unless they are being played. Repairs can be quite costly. We strongly advise that you never leave the instrument unattended on the floor or a chair.
- Your child will be taught how to clean the instrument after each use. Most instruments come with some simple care instructions or special swabs or cloths. Be sure your child has an adequate supply of reeds or oil and a clean soft cloth in the case.
- For sanitary and safety reasons, instruments should never be played by anyone except the student who owns or rents that instrument.
- If you have a problem with your instrument, do not try to fix it yourself! Check with your child's teacher or call your rental dealer as soon as possible.