**Elizabeth Forward School District Elementary Band Syllabus**

**Band Teacher: Mr. Cook**

**(412) 896-2300 Ext. 7500**

[**bcook@efsd.net**](mailto:bcook@efsd.net)

**Mr. Cook’s Website: efelementaryband.com**

*I would like to welcome you to the Elizabeth Forward Elementary School Band Program. You and your child will continue in the exciting journey into the world of playing an instrument. The joy of discovery, awakened in each child who plays an instrument, will be most helpful in all areas of future life. The continued experience of instrumental music education, developed through a proven program of study on an adequate instrument, will continue to bring your child's talents to the surface.*

**Course Description - Band Grades 4-5** - The beginning band program in the Elizabeth Forward School District is designed for 1st and 2nd year players, in grades 4 and 5. Students may try band instruments at the end of 3rd or 4th grade, to choose an instrument to study in the following school year. Instruction is offered on flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, and percussion. Parents may rent or purchase an instrument for their child.  Texts include:  Essential Elements 2000, Book I (purchased by parent) and sheet music (provided by school).

There are two components in elementary band instruction; students meet in a small group 30-minute lesson each week, and a full-band rehearsal during recess once a week starting axp. two months prior to concerts. Throughout lessons and band rehearsals, students are expected to perform with a sense of tone, breath support, intonation, rhythm, harmony and articulation.

**Rehearsals and Concerts** - Beginning (1st year) band students perform two in-school concerts in late spring. The 10:00am in-school concert is for the school. The 2:00pm in school concert is for families and friends. These two in-school concerts will take place on the same day.

Advanced (2nd year) band students perform four in-school concerts throughout the school year. Two of the in school concerts will take place in December prior to the holiday break. The other two in school concerts will take place in late spring. The 10:00am in-school concert is for the school. The 2:00pm in school concert is for families and friends. These two in-school concerts will take place on the same day.

Advanced (2nd year) band students will perform in the Elizabeth Forward School District Combined Band Concert on Tuesday, March 15, 2016 at 7:00pm in the Elizabeth Forward Middle School gymnasium. The arrival time for this concert is 5:45pm. There will be several after school rehearsals prior to this concert on Tuesday, February 16, 2016 (percussion), Monday, February 22, 2016 (woodwinds and brass), Monday, February 29, 2016 (everyone), Monday, March 7, 2016 (everyone) , and March 14, 2016 (everyone). These rehearsals will take place in the Elizabeth Forward High School band room from 4:15pm to 5:45pm on the above dates. Parents will need to provide transportation to and from these rehearsals.

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**Required Materials** - Band students need to have their instrument, folder, lesson book and a pencil for BOTH their Band Lesson and their full Band Rehearsals. They will receive the music folders in one of their band lessons at the beginning of the school year.

**Band Lessons -** During the first few weeks of school, we will study the 4th and 5th grade class schedules and set times where the band students will receive instruction. For each grade, there are times where they may not be scheduled for Band Lessons (math and reading). In addition, we will make every attempt possible not to pull students out of a special class (music, art, computers, physical education, and library).

The remaining times are when students will be scheduled for Band Lessons. Whenever possible, students will be scheduled in homogeneous groups (clarinets with clarinets, for example). We will work with your child’s other teachers to find a time that works well for your child. As soon as that schedule is complete, it will be emailed to you.

**Lesson Responsibility -** Students are to arrive at their lesson on time and put their instrument together immediately. After the lesson, students will quickly put their instruments away and return to class immediately. Each student is responsible for making up any work they missed.

**Full Band Rehearsals** - Full band rehearsals will take place during recess once a week starting approximately two months prior to the concerts. The rehearsals take place during recess because there is no other time during the school day that allows students to be pulled out of class.

**Renting Instrument & Additional Supplies –** The following music stores/vendors service the Elizabeth Forward elementary band program:

1. Hollis and Germann, Inc.
2. Progressive Music
3. Volkwein’s Music

These are the three stores in the area that offer rental (or purchase) services.

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| **REQUIRED** | **SUGGESTED** | **SUPPLIED** |
| Rented Instrument  Lesson Book  Essential Elements , Book I  Pencil  Folding Music Stand –  for home use | Clarinet - box size 2 reeds  Saxophone - box size 2 reeds  Trumpet – valve oil,  slide cream  Trombone – slide oil,  slide cream, spray bottle | Folder  (donated by local music store)  Sheet music  (provided by school) |

**Homework –** The student’s assignment/homework for the next band lesson will be written on the back of the front page of their Essential Elements Book 1 band method book at the end of each lesson. The students need to fill out the number of minutes they practiced each day and have the parent/legal guardian sign this page in the method book each week.

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**Practicing -** Your son or daughter’s homework for band is to practice their instrument. You can easily check their work, just by listening. A little bit of praise goes a long way. Even in the beginning (where you will hear some “unusual” sounds), you will hear progress at home, as your child practices the skills that we have learned in class.

Instrument practice comes naturally to **very few** beginners and has to be learned over time.  My advice is to work with your child in establishing a routine early on and to provide the time and the space required for practice. Having a bright light, a nice chair and a music stand helps set the stage and makes the job of reading music easier.  The band students will be receiving a separate sheet that discusses the issue of *how* to practice. The students are expected to practice every day for ten minutes or fifteen minutes a day five days per week.

**Incentives -** We will use a motivational program called “The Band Solar System”, where students earn beads for accomplishing certain goals in class or through student made videos in the eBackpack program on the student’s iPads. All of the band students will receive a pipe cleaner to put around the handle of the instrument case. When band students are able to play correctly a certain number of exercises in the method book or their sheet music they will receive a bead to place on the pipe cleaner.

**Instrument Storage at School -** When your child comes to school, they will neatly place their instrument in the assigned area in their classroom or in the band/music room. In some special circumstances, an instrument may be left at school overnight. Generally though, NO instruments are permitted to be left at school overnight.

**Commitment -** It is expected that students commit to studying their instrument throughout the entire school year. However, if there is extreme difficulty or loss of interest in playing the instrument, please contact me before returning the instrument. Help is available!:)

**Private Lessons** - Private lessons are a great activity for Band students of any age.  Most elementary-aged students do quite well with lessons that are scheduled every week or even every other week.  Some students take every week during the summer, and revert back to an every-other-week basis when school resumes. If you would like a few names of private teachers, please email me.

**Students in Band and String Orchestra –** Fourth grade students in the Elizabeth Forward School District are allowed to participate in both band and the string orchestra program at the same time. Fifth grade students in the Elizabeth Forward School District are allowed to participate in band, string orchestra, and the fifth grade chorus at the same time. All of the elementary music teachers work together to make sure there are no scheduling conflicts between elementary band, elementary string orchestra, and the fifth grade chorus. Students in grades six through eight at Elizabeth Forward Middle School are permitted to participate in band, chorus, and string orchestra at the same time.

**Contacting Mr. Cook**

Email Address: [bcook@efsd.net](mailto:bcook@efsd.net)

Phone Number: (412) 896-2300 Ext. 7500

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

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**Famous People Who Took Band**

**Flute**Alanis Morrisette (singer)Halle Berry (actress)Celine Dion (singer)Calista Flockhart (“Ally McBeal”)Alyssa Milano (actress)Noah Webster (Webster’s Dictionary)Gwen Stefani (singer from No Doubt)Jennifer Garner (actress from “Alias”)

**Clarinet**Rainn Wilson (actor from “The Office”)Julia Roberts (actress)Gloria Estefan (singer)Tony Shaloub (“Monk”)Eva Longoria (“Desperate Housewives”)Jimmy Kimmel (comedian/talk show host)Allan Greenspan

(former Chairman of the Federal Reserve)Steven Spielberg (movie director)

John Kasich (Governor Of Ohio)

**Bass Clarinet**Zakk Wylde (Guitarist for Ozzy Osbourne)

**Saxophone**Jennifer Garner (“Alias”)Bill Clinton (former U.S. President)

Trent Reznor (lead singer for Nine Inch Nails)Roy Williams (NFL Dallas Cowboys)Vince Carter (NBA Star)David Robinson (Retired NBA Star)Tedi Bruschi (NFL New England Patriots)Bob Hope (late comedian/actor)Lionel Richie (singer, father of Nicole Richie)Tom Selleck (actor from “Magnum PI”)

**Trombone**Bill Engvall (Blue Collar Comedy Tour)Nelly Furtado (singer)Tony Stewart (NASCAR Driver)

**Trumpet**James Woods (actor)John Glenn (Astronaut and U.S. Senator)Michael Anthony (Bass player for Van Halen)Drew Carey (actor/comedian)

Stephen Tyler (lead singer for Aerosmith)

Prince Charles (future King of England)Montel Williams (talk show host)Richard Gere (actor)Shania Twain (singer)Flea (Red Hot Chili Peppers)Jackie Gleason (actor)Samuel L. Jackson

(Mace Windu from Star Wars I, II, III)

**French Horn**Ewan McGregor

(Obi Wan Kanobi from Star Wars I, II, III)Vanessa Williams (Singer/Actress)Otto Graham (NFL Hall of Fame quarterback)

**Baritone**Neil Armstrong (Astronaut - first man on the moon)

**Tuba**Andy Griffith (actor, tv show star)Harry Smith (CBS’s “The Early Show”)Dan Aykroyd (actor)Aretha Franklin (“Queen of Soul”, singer)

**Percussion**Mike Anderson (NFL)Eddie George (retired NFL)Trent Raznor (Nine Inch Nails)Dana Carvey (actor/comedian)Vinnie Paul (Pantera)Walter Payton (NFL Hall of Fame running back)Johnny Carson (TV Host)Mike Piazza (former MLB catcher)

Frank Zappa (rock and roll guitarist and composer)

John Stamos (actor)

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Elizabeth Forward School District

*Instrumental (Band) Music Department*

*Mr. Benjamin Cook, Elementary Band Director*

[*bcook@efsd.net*](mailto:bcook@efsd.net)

*(412) 896-2300 Ext. 7500*

**JOIN THE Elizabeth Forward Elementary School BAND!**

**Finally, you get a chance to shine by being in the band!**

*If you would like to be part of the band, then return this page to your classroom teacher or the band director, Mr. Cook.*

Parents: Please sign this form giving your permission for your student to be part of the band! If you have any questions, please contact me at (412) 896-2300 Ext. 7500 and/or bcook@efsd.net.

If you would like to know more about the individual instruments or band in general, please visit <http://efelementaryband.com>.

**I WANT TO BE PART OF THE BAND!**

Student Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Classroom Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

School:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Contact Information**

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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