

Welcome to Concert Band!

Dear Concert Band Parents and Guardians,

My name is Kitty O'Neill and I will be your musician's band director. I am excited to get to know you and your musicians this year!

Before we get started, here are some reminders for students and parents who are moving up to concert band:

- **Instrument:** Concert band students are expected to provide their own instruments. School-owned instruments are available to beginning band students first. If there are left over instruments, concert band students may rent for the current rate of \$50 per trimester or \$150 for the full year.

The following stores offer high quality instruments to rent or own:

- Bellingham Wind Works - 2405 Meridian St, Bellingham, WA 98225
- Hugo Helmer Music - 1025 S Goldenrod Rd, Burlington, WA 98233

Please avoid purchasing instruments from Costco or Amazon. Though inexpensive, the instruments usually do not hold up, require more effort to play, and do not offer a good performing experience.

- **Accessories:** In addition to an instrument, Students will also need the following accessories to ensure proper instrument hygiene
 - Flute: Cleaning cloth to keep your instrument clean and dry
 - Clarinet and Saxophone: Cleaning cloth, Reeds (2 ½ size), and a reed saver sleeve. Sometimes reeds will come with a reed saver. Having multiple reeds on hand can be very helpful.
 - Brass: Valve oil - petroleum or synthetic, and a cleaning snake
 - Percussion: a set of concert snare sticks. Be sure that the sticks are labeled with the students name and grade
- **Workbook:** Each student will need a copy of "Essential Elements 2000" for their instrument. This is the main exercise book we will be using. This book can be purchased at the locations above.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions. My email is koneill@icrsweb.org
Again, I look forward to working with you and your musicians this year!