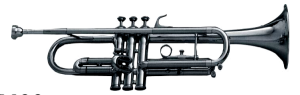


Fort Calhoun Pioneer Band



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FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADE BAND HOLIDAY SEASON PERFORMANCE Reminder...

The 5th and 6th Grade Band classes will present a “mini-concert” on Thursday evening, December 4, at 7:00 p.m. at the HIGH SCHOOL. The 6th grade will present the bulk of the program material, as they usually do. The finale of the concert will be the debut of the new 5th grade class, who will perform a few numbers both by themselves and then combined with the 6th graders.

The concert will be relatively short, but as with all band performances, there is always a certain amount of “prep time” needed before the concert to set up, warm up, tune their horns, etc. **Students will need to report to the HIGH SCHOOL by 6:30 p.m.**

All Band students are expected to be present for class performances. Students should dress up a bit. Dressing up helps set the performance up as a “special event and time” at which we have to play our very best.

A FEW GENERAL NOTES...

- a) 6th Grade Band... All the students have plenty of material to practice. Everybody has a packet of technical exercises that alone would keep them busy for quite a while. In addition, for our December performance they should be working on: 1) several of the songs from the holiday season packet, including specifically WHITE CHRISTMAS, RUDOLPH THE RED NOSED REINDEER, JINGLE BELLS (the long packet version), and others; plus 2) the two or three songs they will play together with the 5th graders.
- b) 5th Grade Band... ONE: Continue to use and review the video coaching guides available on the Habits Universal website. The websites also contain for EACH exercise in the book...a video demonstration of how to play the exercise demonstrated by a professional player, along with an accompaniment soundtrack. The speed can even be altered if they have trouble keeping up. TWO: Work on the scale (concert Bb) comprised of the 8 notes we marked in their fingering charts (back of the book). The scale is also written out in exercise #86 in the book. THREE: They have a packet of unison holiday season songs. For our December performance they will specifically be wanting to work on JINGLE BELLS (short version—separate handout), UP ON THE HOUSETOP, and possibly one more.
- c) The two best things you can do for your student to help their progress through the first FIVE years of band... 1) Encourage them to take a solo to every contest that is available, and then get appropriate help to get it learned carefully. 2) Consider private lessons, if possible. Every student has unique playing issues and unique potential that can't be significantly addressed in a full class rehearsal. The District is no longer providing this service on a weekly basis at any level.

This should be a fun little program which enables us to hear the progress these young players are making. We look forward to seeing you on December 4. Until then, enjoy the upcoming holiday seasons!

Mr. Mark Jones

“Pioneer” Band: A Tradition of Quality, Class, and Pride.