

Dear Franconia Band Parent,

Congratulations! You have chosen a rewarding activity for your child that will provide a wide variety of intellectual as well as pragmatic benefits! The rewards for participating in this part of the SASD curriculum are both measurable and aesthetic. Those who chose to participate in the arts often discover that their interest and participation in these activities becomes a life-long love. Although aesthetic awareness is not as easily measured by charts and graphs, educational research implies a definitive link between musical study and student performance on various forms of assessments including, but not limited to, the PSSA, Keystone Exams, SAT, and ACT.

Your child's musical journey will present them with a curriculum that contains mental and physical challenges with which the parent has a very important role. Even though you may not have had formal training in music yourself, you can be your child's greatest advocate in the training and usage of the new language they are learning.

**In short, please insist that your child plays their instrument regularly. Consistency is especially important in these first two months. Observe your child during their practice sessions and become familiar with their lesson books. This will be very beneficial to your child and you will become more aware of the specific mental and physical tasks being assigned to them. Your child's success will be significantly enhanced by your encouragement.**

I will be happy to answer any questions about your child's instruction and the band program in general throughout the school year. E-mail is the most efficient way for us to communicate. My school e-mail is [bhelmer@soudertonsd.org](mailto:bhelmer@soudertonsd.org). Please take the time to review the practical suggestions below to help organize you new musician so they can get the most out of their lessons.

- Most children will need guidance to practice regularly (at least 5 X a week - 20 minutes)
- Ask them "what" and "why" they are doing what they are doing.
- Insist on consistent weekly practicing. ( They may even thank you someday!!)
- Students need to bring instrument, folder/music, and a pencil to every lesson
- The schools utilize a rotating lesson schedule to lessen missed classroom time
- When the scheduled lesson time conflicts with a critical classroom concept, the student will come to my room to arrange an alternate time.

**Please sign the tear-off section below and have your child return it to me or their classroom teacher.**

Musically yours,

J. William Helmer III (Director of Bands)

- E-mail: [bhelmer@soudertonsd.org](mailto:bhelmer@soudertonsd.org)
- Web site [helmerbandroom.weebly.com](http://helmerbandroom.weebly.com)

I have reviewed this information with my child and we are ready for an amazing musical experience!

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Name/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date