



Linntown Elementary School

Instrumental Music Department - Band

1951 Washington Avenue

Lewisburg, PA 17837

Phone: (570) 523-3220 x 3059 (Middle School Band Office)

email: Letteer_J@dragon.k12.pa.us

Dale A Orris

Instrumental Music Teacher & Director of Bands

Dear Parents,

Is your child considering dropping out of our band program? The decision about quitting is one that should not be taken lightly. Though music may not be your child's career choice, it still plays a valuable role in his/her total education and one that will have a positive influence for life!

I certainly do not want to infringe on your right as a parent to support your son's/daughter's decision, but would ask that you consider the importance of this decision. There are many social values associated with membership in a musical organization. **Participation in band helps develop self-discipline and provides the opportunity to work as a member of a team. Being a member of band can also help increase self-esteem and provide opportunities to develop leadership skills.** As important as all of these character-building experiences are, they are still secondary to the inherent benefits found when a child is an active student of music.

Music allows us to explore the world through sound. **It is a vehicle for students to develop their creativity and self-expression. Music helps in the development of eye-hand coordination and aural (hearing) skills.** Music cannot be learned from a book. **It should be experienced through active participation.**

Your child is going through the formative years of habit development. These habits will determine the way he/she approaches every aspect of life. Though **the requirements for learning an instrument often demand a high level of personal discipline, it is this very discipline that will be applied as a habit to all tasks of life.**

Since deciding whether to continue or quit is a major decision and because of the financial and time commitment of the family and school, I hope you and your child have held or will soon hold a serious discussion regarding the best decision possible. Rest assured, I will support whatever choice is made. However, I hope the decision is based on solid information, for we are dealing with society's most important investment, tomorrow's leader, and your most important investment - your child. Needless to say, we all want what is in his/her best interest now and for the future.

If your decision is to allow your child to quit learning to play a band instrument, please print the form (page 3), and return it to me prior to your child's next scheduled lesson.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND PERSONAL ATTENTION!

Musically yours,

Dale A. Orris

Attachments: Why Band?
Permission To Quit Band (A form to be completed & returned)



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Dear Parents,

Musicians enjoy a common but unattainable goal - perfection. There are always wrong notes to correct, rhythms to master, phrases to be shaped, greater dynamics to be achieved, and an ongoing list of improvements to develop better musicianship. In the midst of all these busy activities, we need to be reminded about the reasons we have band in the first place. It is more than just an entertainment group which shows up at various athletic events, marches at local parades, and plays concerts at various times of the year. As a music educator, I must make it my responsibility to inform others that band is an art form. By doing so, there will be a clearer understanding of why we have band in our school curriculum.

The following condensed outline has helped me in this important communication, and I offer a copy to you.

WHY BAND?

Band is a valuable part of a child's education. As with all art, it is about expressing oneself via a different and unique language. Most of everything one studies requires a definitive skill of following instructions. Band adds to that requirement the option of self-expression.

Band is a group effort. Members are required to shift from an "I/Me" reasoning to a "We/Us" concept. This means extending oneself beyond the normal considerations of much of our day-to-day living. Instead of the logic being, "what's in it for me," it becomes, "what's in it for us?" The values of cooperation, communication, concentration, and completion come into play during each rehearsal and performance.

Band builds positive self-worth. Although we share many similarities with athletic organizations, a person participating in BAND rarely serves as an alternate or substitute. No one "sits on the bench" waiting to play. Everyone in the band plays a starting role.

Band is preparation for life. Through the discipline of MUSIC, we are developing an understanding between the intellectual and emotional thought processes. Band allows the person to be constantly involved. The skills learned in band are directly transferable to other facets of life.

Although these four points may seem lofty in character, they make up the fundamental framework of our band program. Hopefully, this brief overview will give you a first-hand look at the foundation that supports our musical education program.

Musically yours,

Dale A. Orris

Permission To Quit Band

If your decision is to allow your child to quit learning to play a band instrument:

- 1) Please make a print of this form (To do so, put your cursor somewhere on this page, File > Print, select Current Page under Page Range, click OK);
- 2) Print your child's first and last name on the first line; and
- 3) You and your child need to sign and date the form.
- 4) **Send the form**, via your child or through the U. S. Postal Service, to the Linntown Elementary School, ATTN: Dale A. Orris, 1951 Washington Avenue, Lewisburg, PA 17837 prior to your child's next scheduled lesson.

_____ has permission to quit participating in
(Print your child's first and last name)

Lewisburg's Middle School Band Program.

(child's signature)

(date)

(parent signature)

(date)

COMMENTS (if any):
