

O'Brien Band Newsletter

July 2025

Dear O'Brien Band Member,

Welcome to the 2025-26 school year! I hope you are having a wonderful summer full of adventure and relaxation. It is hard to believe that school is almost here already, but I am excited to meet all our new band students this year and look forward to catching up with our previous O'Brien Lions.

Prideland Day – Monday, August 4, 2025

Monday, August 4 will be Prideland Day at O'Brien Middle School, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. This is an opportunity for students to obtain a draft of their schedule, tour the campus, confirm their registration, turn in immunizations, and connect with a few of your teachers. It is also an opportunity for band students that are going to rent a school instrument to take care of that before school starts. You can pick up a supply list for the instrument you play so you can purchase your supplies early before the music stores sell out.

If you are a beginner, we can do your instrument fitting early! For the fitting we will have you try out a few instruments to see which one would be the best fit for you. If you and your family want to rent a school instrument, you can fill out the rental form early and pay the rental fee, which is \$50 (cash only).

If you are a veteran O'Brien Band member, you can rent your instrument and take it home early. If you already turned in the rental form at the end of last year, you can just pay the rental fee and be done! The goal is always for Intermediate and Advanced Band to start playing in class before the end of the first week of school, especially with the new concert Intermediate and Advanced Band have in October.

We will also be doing rentals and fittings in class when school starts, so if you cannot make it to Prideland Day, do not worry! If you do attend, the band room is room 132 on the first floor. There is a one-time rental fee of \$50 for school rentals (cash only), but if your family has financial difficulties, we can create a payment plan or waive the fee. Families may also rent or purchase from a music retailer. If you have a family instrument that you already own, please make sure to get it checked out by a music repair shop like Blue Note B's or Absolute Music to make sure it functions properly.

Beginning Band Information

Students who take beginning band will be fitted for an instrument the first week of school, unless they take care of it early during Prideland Day. Options for beginners are flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, bass clarinet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, trumpet, horn, trombone, and euphonium/baritone and tuba.

Students who are interested in percussion will audition in December and if they pass, will switch to percussion in January. All students start the year on a woodwind or brass instrument. Percussionists play mallet percussion like xylophone, as well as instruments such as timpani, snare drum, bass drum and auxiliary instruments like triangle and cymbals. Behavior is considered along with ability, so students that are interested need to show their best behavior starting day one.

Beginners will not take instruments home until they purchase cleaning supplies and show they can put the instrument together and clean it properly (3rd week of school).

Please note that O'Brien does not rent any saxophones to beginners. If you are a beginner and want to play alto or tenor saxophone, you will need to purchase your own or rent from a music store.

Events

10/2/25 – Spooky Concert for Intermediate and Advanced Bands only

11/13/25 - Salute to Our Veterans Concert, 6:30 p.m. Advanced Band Only

12/11/25 – Winter Band Concert, 6:30 p.m. All Bands

5/14/26 – Spring Band Concert – 6:30 p.m. All Bands

5/20/26-5/21/26 – Band Festival at UNR (field trip during the school day, Intermediate and Advanced Bands).

Contact Info

If you have any questions, concerns, or just want to introduce yourself, feel free to email the Band Director, Mrs. Melanie Fassbender, at mfassbender@washoeschools.net. See you soon!