



# OVMS BANDS

Dear Fifth Grade Parents:

Welcome to Oak Valley! I also hope to welcome you and your child to the Oak Valley Bands. Music is a tremendous influence in our lives; can you imagine watching your favorite movie and NOT having the soundtrack playing? Music is also an incredible outlet for a child's creativity, and is one of the very few activities that get both the left and right side of our brains working together.

At our middle schools, students receive beginning instruction in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, *NO prior musical experience is necessary*. We do our best to teach the students everything that we possibly can about music and how to make music with their instruments. They will learn how to assemble and play their instrument, how to read music, and also to compose music of their own. The Oak Valley bands are a direct route to the nationally recognized Milford and Lakeland High School band programs.

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade band will have 4 performances the first year: Three are evening concerts; one is a daytime performance for incoming students. Our focus in the first year is on getting the students to have confidence in performing on their instruments. Once we've established the basics, we have more performance and enrichment opportunities in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade for the students.

There are many ways to get instruments, but nothing that we need to worry about until students are here at Oak Valley in the fall. If you have any questions, please contact me by phone or email. I firmly believe that EVERY student should have the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument. Certain instruments are provided by the school automatically, and others are available if there is a need. If there are any issues, we'll work them out!

6th grade is THE TIME to get involved in band, we don't really do beginning instruction in 7th and 8th grade. As many former and current students can tell you, we work hard, have fun and make great music in band, it's a life changing experience!

Don Hogaboom  
Band Director  
Oak Valley Middle School

**Contact Mr. Hogaboom:**

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*Here's a short list of some of the opportunities for our Oak Valley Band students during their time here. As students move into 7th and 8th grade, more of these events become available for them.*

- Multiple concerts playing a variety of music throughout the year.
- We've had composers and nationally renowned clinicians work with our bands
- Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association Solo & Ensemble festival
- Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association Honor Band
- Travel! This year we had planned to travel CMU to work with Dr. James Batchellor. As in previous years, we spend the rest of the weekend at Great Wolf Lodge and the Silver Lake Sand Dunes. We've also had clinics at EMU, Interlochen, BGSU, U-M and MSU.
- Our Jazz Band performs at concerts, school functions, and various other times.
- Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp. Oak Valley students have received many *thousands* of dollars in scholarship money for Blue Lake.
- Milford Holiday Parade
- Performances with the LHS and MHS marching and concert bands.
- The world famous Summer Band that performs in the 4th of July parade and travels to Cedar Point for an additional performance.
- A ton of fun while learning to become outstanding musicians!