

Band Buddies

Guidelines for Student Mentors

- **Be sure to keep language clean & appropriate at all times. Teach as though their parents were watching. You represent our band program!**
- **Have a sense of humor—make it fun, but never at a student’s expense. Even light “kidding around” can cause embarrassment or hurt feelings. Avoid putting kids on the spot in front of peers (or ask first).**
- **Always encourage-- never reprimand or scold. Send any behavior problems to the band director, but please don’t put yourself in the position of disciplinarian. Be a role model and buddy, not a boss!**
- **Never touch a student (including their hands) without asking first. They may not act uncomfortable, but you must always ask their permission. Try to explain or demonstrate on your instrument instead of physically grabbing their hands. Allow kids plenty of personal space.**
- **Please do not play a student’s instrument. We do not want to pass germs or risk dropping another family’s valuable possession.**
- **Share your love of music with them—play something “cool” once in a while, or share your excitement about high school band! Bring a copy of an easy pep band tune or popular melody as a special treat.**
- **Remember what it was like to be a beginner player. They want to learn, have fun, be accepted, try new things and achieve success at something. Make these your top goals for the day!**
- **Listen to them as a group, observe their tone/hand positions/embouchures/posture/etc. Point out 1) things they are doing WELL and 2) ways to improve what they are doing. Be gentle but specific!**
- **Take your time! There’s no big hurry to learn everything about the instrument all at once. Break exercises down into simpler steps to focus on fundamentals like tone production, tonguing, etc. Keep it simple!**