

The background features three vertical bands of color: light blue on the left, olive green in the center, and light tan on the right. Faint, semi-transparent silhouettes of a saxophone, a violin, and a trumpet are overlaid on these bands. The text is centered and reads:

**Clinton  
Elementary School**

**Band  
Handbook**

**2014-2015**

*“It had never occurred to me before that music and thinking are so much alike. In fact, you could say music is another way of thinking, or maybe thinking is another kind of music.*



*-Ursula K. Le Guin*

*A few words from your band teacher...*

**Mrs. Ellen Oberto**

Welcome to band! This is going to be a great year for our program. Expect some challenges and some hard work but also a lot of fun. Learning to play a musical instrument is not easy, but that is what makes it so rewarding when everything comes together.

Parents, I hope that you are preparing to be involved in this part of your child’s education. Ask your child to play for you every once in a while. Come to concerts throughout the year, and make sure that your child practices at least 100 minutes each week. You are an important factor in your child’s musical success. It takes all of us working together to build an outstanding program.

I am looking forward to getting to know you and your families this year. If at any time you have questions about the band program, do not hesitate to call me at (773) 534-2025 or e-mail me at [eoberto@cps.edu](mailto:eoberto@cps.edu).

Musically Yours,

Mrs. Ellen Oberto

---

## **Expectations**

Mrs. Oberto has only 2 expectations of band students:

**#1 Show up prepared!**

**#2 Practice!**

### **#1 Show up prepared!**

Showing up prepared means being at every rehearsal and performance, prepared with all materials. A detailed list of materials is included on page 4 of this handbook. There are basically 4 to remember:

- |                                 |           |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 1) Instrument (and accessories) | 3) Folder |
| 2) Book                         | 4) Pencil |

Band classes will be held during school, in the Enrichment period. Students will not miss any intervention time or regular class time. You are also responsible for showing up to after school sectionals once a week until 4:15 on the day that your section meets (*Brass = Mon., Woodwinds = Wed., Percussion = Thurs.*).

## #2 Practice!

Practice is the number one factor in a student's success or failure in learning a musical instrument. When students practice, they get better. When they don't practice, they don't get better. It's that simple! Students should practice for at least 100 minutes each week. This might be 20 minutes a day, 5 days a week. However, you can create a schedule that works for you. Set aside a regular time for practice, just as you would for homework.

Parents, keep in mind that practice is noisy. This is one time when you should not discourage a noisy home. Set up times for practice that will be the least disruptive to the family. The "noise" will become more and more enjoyable as your child improves, but this won't happen without that practice time. Students will be permitted to come to the music room before school to practice if that is helpful for them, but they must get a pass from Mrs. Oberto and have it signed by their parents. Mrs. Oberto will decide whether or not a student will be able to come in on any particular day.

Students should complete and turn in a Practice Reflection once a week. Practice Reflections are intended to help students set goals for their practice time and evaluate their progress. Although students should practice more than once a week, the Practice Reflection should reflect only one practice session each week. It is a snapshot of what they are working on at that time. A sample Practice Reflection is below:

Practice Reflection		
Name _____	Date of Practice Session: _____	
<b>Warm-Up</b> ( <i>items from your Practice Page, scales, long tones, mouthpiece work, rudiments, etc.</i> ):		
Description	Goal(s)	Result
<b>Playing Test</b> ( <i>look on your Playing Test sheet for this</i> ):		
Book # or Assignment	Concept ( <i>in bold print</i> )	Result
<b>Concert Music/Other Assignments:</b>		
Title	Goal(s)	Result
<b>What do I still need to work on?</b>		
_____		
_____		

## Materials Needed

***Please have everything by October 17***

1. **One flat, three prong folder with pockets**
2. **Instrument in good working order! Instrument cases should be clearly labeled** to prevent mix-ups and lost instruments.
3. **Book:**  
Beginning Band - Essential Elements 2000, *Book 1* for your instrument  
Concert Band - Essential Elements 2000, *Book 2* for your instrument
4. **PENCIL: EVERYDAY!!!!**
5. **Accessories:**
  - Trumpet and Euphonium** – valve oil, slide grease, valve brush, cleaning “snake,” mouthpiece brush
  - Trombone** – slide cream, small spray bottle, slide grease, cleaning “snake,” mouthpiece brush
  - Flute** – cloth swab (the cotton handkerchief type), tuning/cleaning rod
  - Clarinet** – 4 good reeds everyday with a sturdy reed holder (**Reeds should be size 3 if they are Rico & 2 ½ if they are Vandoren!!**), cloth swab (the cotton handkerchief type)
  - Saxophone** – 4 good reeds everyday with a sturdy reed holder, **Reeds should be size 3 if they are Rico & 2 ½ if they are Vandoren!!**, cloth swab, neck strap, neck plug
  - Percussion** – Snare drum or drum pad and bell kit, size 2B sticks

***Please label your cases!!!***

Here are some music stores in our area that sell or rent band instruments and materials.

Flatts and Sharpe  
(773) 465-5233  
6749 N. Sheridan Rd.  
Chicago, IL 60626

PM Music Center  
4411 Fox Valley Center Dr.  
Aurora, IL 60504  
630-978-9927  
[www.pmmusiccenter.com](http://www.pmmusiccenter.com)

*If you are concerned about being able to afford an instrument for your child, please speak with Mrs. Oberto.*

***Please sign and return this page by Friday, October 3  
after reading the handbook!***

**Students should keep the handbook in their band folders  
and have it with them every day in band.**

*Statement of commitment:*

My child, \_\_\_\_\_, will be a member in the Clinton Elementary School Band for the 2014-2015 school year. I commit to keeping my child in band for the entire school year, and I agree to encourage my child to practice and participate fully in band and to be responsible for making sure that my child is present and prepared with his or her instrument for all band rehearsals and performances. I understand that Clinton School and staff are not responsible for replacement and repair of lost, damaged, or stolen instruments, and I agree to discuss with my child the importance of keeping an instrument secure at school and when traveling to and from school. I also grant permission for my child to stay after school for sectionals once a week on the day that his or her instrument section meets as indicated in the handbook.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone #

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail

The after school sectional schedule is as follows:

- MONDAYS = BRASS (Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium, Horn, Tuba)
- WEDNESDAYS = WOODWIND (Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone)
- THURSDAYS = PERCUSSION

Please check one of the following options for your child going home on days that he or she stays after school until 4:15 for sectionals:

\_\_\_\_ My child will walk home alone after sectionals.

\_\_\_\_ My child will walk home after sectionals with \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_ I will pick my child up at door 11 (North side of school on Granville) at 4:15.

---

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am a member of the Clinton Elementary School Band for the 2014-2015 school year. I commit to staying in band for the entire school year, and I agree to practice and participate fully in band and to be present and prepared with my instrument for all band rehearsals, including after school sectionals, and performances.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date