

VMS BAND WELCOME LETTER

Dear Band Students & Families,

Welcome! I'm very excited for another great year of music with all of you! It is a pleasure to introduce myself as the Band Director at Villago Middle School for a Third year! I came to Arizona from Iowa, where I obtained my degree in Instrumental Music Education from the University of Northern Iowa. In Iowa, I had the pleasure of performing with several ensembles including: concert bands, jazz band, marching band, indoor drumline, and several percussion and saxophone ensembles. Currently, I am an active performer as a saxophonist, clarinetist, & percussionist. I have performed with the Ames, Iowa Municipal Band, Central Arizona Community Band, and the pit orchestra for the musical Grease. I also serve as a private lesson instructor for all instruments and all ages. I am on staff with Union High School as the Woodwind Music Instructor and also will be serving my 2nd year as 6th grade chairperson for Arizona Middle School All State Honor Band, which will take place this coming spring - Saturday, March 16th. This is one of several honor bands available throughout the year for students!

I am so excited to continue creating music with such talented and hard-working students. The music program at Villago is very distinguished, hence I am very eager to continue delivering excellence in music education to Villago and its surrounding community! Students participate in a variety of unique musical experiences including: Honor Bands, ASU Band Day, Pep Band, Jazz Band, Concerts, Marching Band experiences at High School Football Games, Electric Light Parade & much more. I can't wait to see what this year brings!

Students and Families: School has begun! Students should bring their instrument, a pencil, white board marker & eraser, binder with page protectors for warm ups, music, & important documents; and Accent on Achievement Book for their designated ensemble each day for rehearsal. All this information is provided in the handbook given out the first week of school. It is very important all students are present for each and every rehearsal and all required performances! The information you will need is provided on our school website: villagoband.com. I will also email and hand out reminders frequently throughout the year! We will be having several **presentation sessions** throughout **Parent Night** in the **Band Room on Tuesday, August 14th (4 - 7 pm)** to provide **important information and adjustments** to the Villago Band Program. Don't miss it!

An important event coming up is **Instrument Rental Nights** if your student does not have an instrument of his or her own:

Tuesday, August 14 - Cactus Middle School from 5-7 pm

Wednesday, August 15 - Villago Middle School from 5-7 pm

We also have monthly band booster meetings. These meetings are open to all band parents/relatives and we encourage you be an active participant in our discussions, including: events, fundraisers, volunteer opportunities, & equipment needs. These meetings will be posted on the band website. If you have any questions, feel free to call the school or email me at sarah.baker@cgelem.k12.az.us or our band booster email - vmsbandboosters@gmail.com. Our first meeting will be on **Monday, August 13th at 4:30 pm in the band room**. Hope to see you there! I look forward to a wonderful year of music with your students.

Musically Yours,

Ms. Sarah Baker