

School Band Curriculum Evaluation & Adoption Guide

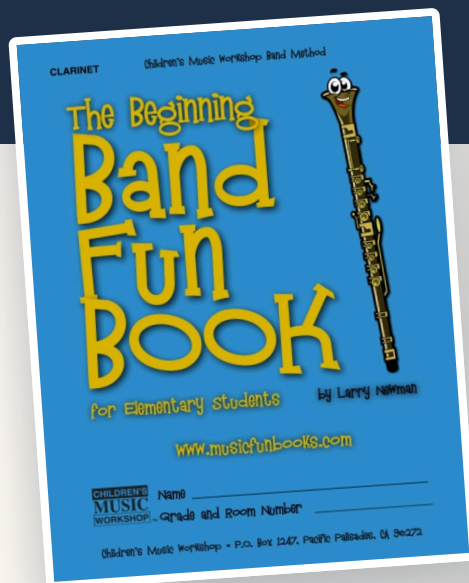
The Beginning Band Fun Book for Elementary Students

Woodwinds

Brass

Percussion

Grades 2–5



PURPOSE OF THIS GUIDE

Help an elementary band teacher or curriculum reviewer understand the method, inspect a complete clarinet edition, document observations, and prepare a recommendation under local school or district procedures.

Developed by **Larry Newman** — California-credentialed teacher, elementary instrumental music educator, program director, and author of Music Fun Books.

Begin here:

[School Band Adoption page](#)

[Complete interactive clarinet book](#)



OVERVIEW

The program and its audience

The Beginning Band Fun Book for Elementary Students is an elementary-focused instrumental method designed for younger beginning players. It offers readable notation, manageable assignments, a gradual sequence, and instrument-specific books for a school band.

Why schools might consider it

1 Early achievement

Large notation and short musical tasks allow beginners to focus on attainable steps.

2 Reading development

Early note-name support progresses toward reading conventional notation.

3 Practical instrumental work

The lessons introduce instrument-specific pitches, fingerings and basic techniques.

4 Musical engagement

Familiar songs, rhythm exercises and a bonus duet section support motivation.

5 Program flexibility

Coordinated instrumental editions provide options for woodwinds, brass, percussion and piano accompaniment. Every exercise is numbered the same way in every book, so the teacher can simply say, “Everyone turn to number 7.”

Where it may fit

Core beginning method

When the method suits local age range, repertoire and goals.

Supplement

To reinforce reading and technique in an existing program.

School pilot

To test classroom fit before a broader decision.



What students encounter in their books

The complete 56-page clarinet review edition makes it possible to examine the method's progression directly. All instrument editions follow the same page-by-page sequence: a concept introduced on a given page of the clarinet book appears on the same page of every other book, adapted for that instrument.

Pages 1–6	First notes; simple rhythms and rests; short exercises with large notation.
Pages 7–11	Half notes, melodies, notation without letters, early tonguing and expanded notes.
Pages 12–20	Eighth-note patterns, repeated sections, slurs, ties, songs and basic reading skills.
Pages 21–30	Accidentals, key signatures, new fingerings, musical terms and expressive symbols.
Pages 31–42	Dynamics, longer repertoire, register development and specialized instrument exercises.
Pages 43–55	Bonus duet section: separate melody and harmony parts on familiar tunes.
Page 56	Fingering chart for reference.



See, rather than take our word for it: [Open the complete clarinet method online.](#)
Review both opening pages and later pieces—not merely publisher descriptions.

Free practice support for beginning band students

The Beginning Band Fun Book series provides **free song-by-song MP3 play-alongs** and **performance videos for selected instruments**. Verify the available resources for each instrument before making a local adoption decision.



Play-alongs and performance videos

Song-by-song MP3 play-alongs · Selected instrument performance videos

[Watch the clarinet videos →](#)



How the resources support students

Hear the music

Use play-alongs to support musical listening and pulse.

Practice at home

Students can reinforce classroom skills between lessons.

Model performances

Selected instrument videos show how each tune should sound.

Teacher-directed use

Match digital resources with the relevant page and instrument.

Explore the free practice resources

musicfunbooks.com/bbfb/

For every instrument: Students follow the same numbered exercises, while their teacher provides technique appropriate to each instrument.

3

REVIEWER QUESTIONS

Evaluate the actual classroom fit

Use these questions to record what you observe in the full clarinet edition and in the other instrument-specific books selected for your ensemble.

A Notation and readability

Are note sizes and student directions accessible to your beginners? When do note-name aids disappear?

B Instrumental sequence

Do first notes, rhythms, embouchure and fingering expectations fit your teaching plan?

C Pacing and differentiation

Can exercises be repeated, adapted or extended for varied elementary learners?

D Full-band coordination

Can the full band work from the same page and exercise number together?

E Repertoire and engagement

Are the songs familiar and appealing to your students, and do they reinforce the skills being taught?

F Practice resources

Which MP3s, videos, fingering aids and teacher supports are available and relevant?



Document specific evidence: page numbers, a trial lesson outcome, a student observation, or a question for the publisher.



DOCUMENTATION

Standards and curriculum review

California Arts Standards for Music may inform a local review; one beginning instrumental book does not necessarily cover every relevant standard. The connections below are review prompts, not a formal standards-alignment certification.

PERFORMING

Develop

Review sequential notation, pitch and rhythm work in instrumental lessons.

PERFORMING

Present

Use songs, dynamics and duets as opportunities for rehearsal and performance.

RESPONDING

Evaluate

Plan listening, critique and reflection activities beyond printed exercises.

CONNECTING

Context

Teach musical, cultural and historical contexts as appropriate.

CREATING

Compose

Identify separate improvisation and composition tasks where standards require them.

For district use, map lessons to specific grade-band standards and document any complementary classroom activities.



PROCESS

A practical school-to-district pathway

School and district requirements differ. These steps describe a possible workflow, not a mandatory statewide sequence.

1

Teacher examination

Examine the clarinet review, selected other editions and available resources.

2

Classroom pilot, if permitted

Try authorized student copies and record pacing, student response and outcomes.

3

Written recommendation

Use the evaluation worksheet on the following page and cite specific examples.

4

Local approval discussion

Ask your principal or music coordinator which purchasing or adoption process applies.

5

Ordering and implementation

Confirm edition counts, funding, quote or PO needs, delivery and rollout.

Possible supporting materials

✓ List of student editions

✓ Digital previews

✓ Quote

✓ Teacher evaluation

✓ Standards notes

✓ Implementation plan



Teacher evaluation & recommendation

Optional local worksheet. Use alongside any school or district-required forms; this is not an official state or district form.

School / district:

Reviewer / position:

Grade levels / number of students:

Instrument editions examined:

Proposed use (core / supplement / pilot):

Rate each item: 1 = Concern • 2 = Some concerns • 3 = Suitable • 4 = Strong • N/O = Not observed

Notation and student directions

1 2 3 4 N/O

Evidence / page / notes:

Rhythm and pitch reading progression

1 2 3 4 N/O

Evidence / page / notes:

Instrumental technique and pacing

1 2 3 4 N/O

Evidence / page / notes:

Full-band coordination

1 2 3 4 N/O

Evidence / page / notes:

Repertoire and student engagement

1 2 3 4 N/O

Evidence / page / notes:

Audio, video and home-practice support

1 2 3 4 N/O

Evidence / page / notes:

Recommendation

☐ Adopt / advance

☐ Pilot

☐ More review

☐ Do not recommend

Strengths / questions:

Reviewer signature / date:



NEXT STEPS

Ordering details and next steps

Evaluate the complete clarinet example online, identify the instrument editions required, and contact Music Fun Books for current classroom-ordering details.

Available beginning band editions

[Flute](#)[Clarinet](#)[Alto Sax](#)[Trumpet](#)[French Horn](#)[Trombone](#)[Mini pBone](#)[Baritone / Euphonium](#)[Tuba](#)[Drums](#)[Bells](#)[Piano Accompaniment](#)

EXISTING EDUCATOR PURCHASING OFFER

25% off

- 25% off qualifying orders of 25+ paperback books.
- Mix and match qualifying titles and instrument editions.
- Free shipping on qualifying teacher orders.

Contact us to confirm current terms and district purchasing requirements.

Information to include in your inquiry

- ☐ School and district; contact and position
- ☐ Instrument counts and grade levels
- ☐ Proposed start date
- ☐ Quote, invoice, purchase order or other paperwork requirements

Start your school or district evaluation

[View the complete clarinet book](#) →[School Band Adoption page](#) →[Teacher discount information](#) →

Questions and adoption inquiries:

info@musicfunbooks.com

Larry Newman is a California-credentialed music educator. This credential describes the author; it does not signify state approval or district endorsement of these materials.