

Hello!

My name is Katie Genevro and I am a middle school band director in El Paso, TX. I have a few ideas that I have been using with my students during to the time of social distancing.

"Amazing Race" for band. Students are given a challenge to complete every week. If they have completed the weekly challenge, I put their name in a hat for a Thursday drawing. Once they have completed, I go ahead and give them the next challenge. There will be a "grand prize" for the student who completes the most by May 15th. (We are done with school May 22). See attachment for challenge ideas.

I have posted weekly assignments including a short theory assignment, listening assignment (They LOVED Snarky Puppy) and a playing quiz. (The Amazing Race is optional.) I wish I could say I have 100% participation in the weekly assignments, but I only have about 50%. I have about 75% who come to my online class which is only 20 minutes per band twice a week.

For recruiting, I put together a short video of my band students to our fight song. I used lots of pictures of 6th graders so the current 5th graders would hopefully recognize friends! I shared the video with 5th grade teachers and administrators at the elementary schools.

I also created a flier for 5th grade students and am sending to 5th grade teachers. The flier includes links to mini instrument videos created by the US Navy band. I am also asking for a 5 minute "guest appearance" in their online class. I need to complete a google doc to send to 5th graders so they can just fill in their info and top three choices.

Just for fun, I created a couple raps for my students too. I just want to keep their spirits up and keep them excited for band.

Just some ideas. Thank you for encouraging everyone to share!!

Sincerely,

Katie Genevro
H.E. Charles Middle School
Band Director

Amazing Race!!



Let the Challenges Begin!!!

Charles Charger Band

Challenge Number One: Play Happy Birthday, record and email to me or submit on Schoology.

Challenge Number Two: Figure out the theme to a movie on your instrument and record it for me! Your movie choice!! Hint: There's lots of great movie music on Smart Music or google movie music and your instrument to find lots of sheet music online!! Enjoy!!

Challenge Number Three: Play both parts of a duet for your instrument. I have selected an option on Smart Music, or you may find your own. Google Duets for your instruments and lots will pop up! I will help you combine the two recordings to have a duet all your own!! PS....Great idea for Mother's Day Gift!!!!

Challenge Number Four: Look online for a professional musician who plays your instrument. Listen/Watch a recording and make two comments about the musician's set-up (Posture, hand position, embouchure) and tone. Please send me a link to the recording and your comments.

Challenge Number Five: *You're the Composer!!* Compose your own 8 measure music for your instrument. Please use a variety of rhythms including eighth notes, quarter notes, half notes, rests and dotted rhythms. I will post sheet music on Schoology for you to access. If you don't have a printer, just create your own staff paper with a straight edge and pen. OR you can use any free online composition software like NoteFlight. Send me a recording of you playing your original composition!!!

Challenge Number Six: Select a solo on Smart music and play along with the accompaniment. I am happy to conference with you to help with any rhythms or notes! Please send me a recording of you playing the solo!



Charles Middle School Charger Band



Hello 5th grade students!! Can you believe in 4 short weeks you will be graduating elementary school and become a Middle Schooler!! We are super proud of you!!

My name is Katie Genevro, and I am the band director at Charles Middle School! I'd like to personally invite all of you to join the Charles Charger Band next year!! You have the amazing opportunity to learn to read music, play a new instrument and have TON of fun with an amazing group of students that make up the: **Charles Charger Band!!** 🎵

If you are already signed up for band, I have a huge WOO HOO for you!!!! Please visit the following website to see an introduction of the instruments you can play in band!! The amazing US Navy Band in Washington, DC put together an excellent resource with 3 minute videos introducing all the instruments!! We do not offer the harp but all the others are available!! Please email me your top 3 choices for next year!!! kngenevr@episd.org. Please include your name and contact information too as I will be touching base with you over the summer.

NAVY Band Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLgVW2dNuDrZ3GsnD1HjYgriBL8pm6gqVX&feature=share>

If you are not sure, I understand! There are a LOT of fun electives to explore your 6th grade year. You can't go wrong! If you are thinking about band and would like more information, please do not hesitate to email me at kngenevr@episd.org. I am really good at returning emails and am happy to call you too if you have additional questions.

One of the most frequently asked questions is: ***Aren't instruments super expensive to rent??*** We are SUPER fortunate to have a district that supplies a lot of school instruments available for a very low yearly rental fee. The \$45 yearly fee may be paid at one time or in payments over the fall.

Thank you VERY much for considering band for next year!!! The benefits of playing an instrument are HUGE and will positively impact all areas of your child's education!! From critical thinking skills, team-work, creativity and problem solving, band nurtures so many skills for your child. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me!!

Sincerely,

Katie Genevro
Charles MS Band Director