**Joining Band**

Hello Musicians and Parents,

I want to welcome everybody to a new school year. This week I talked to the 4th and 5th graders about what is involved in participating in the band program. I would like to share this information with you. You can watch the video we saw in class here:

[https://www.teachband.com](https://www.teachband.com/)

This is a unique year. This email is focused on renting and playing in the band. Another email will go out with information about Covid and how we are going to adjust band to make it safe for everybody in the room. I will send that out to students that are interested in participating in the band.

Renting

If you are a beginning band member, you are probably not familiar with the adventure of renting an instrument. You can rent your instrument at any local music store, but I would recommend Music and Arts in Manchester (623-0153). They have a three month trial offer at a reasonable price. You do not need the cleaning kit. The few useful items can be purchased much cheaper individually. Clarinet and Saxophone students don’t need to buy a whole box of #2 reeds. You’re band member will outgrow them in 2 weeks. You want to buy a three pack of #2 size reeds. I will always have #21/2 reeds with me in band.

All music instruments are not created equal.

I would not recommend purchasing any instrument at first, especially if purchased from one of the big discount stores. First Act and Blessing are a few brand names to avoid. These are instruments that break and don’t play in tune. Don’t confuse buying an inexpensive instrument with buying a good instrument inexpensively. I have seen many students struggle with an inferior horn only to flourish once it was replaced with a better one. I would like to strongly recommend the following brands. If the music store is out of these brands, just ask them if you can bring your instrument back in a few weeks and exchange it for one of the brands below.

Saxophone: Yamaha Alto Saxophone

Clarinet: Buffet or Yamaha

Flute: Gemeinhardt or Yamaha

Trumpet: Bach or Yamaha

Trombone: Bach or Yamaha

Percussion: Ludwig, Yamaha or Pearl - Percussionists can learn either snare

 drum or bells.

In addition to acquiring an instrument, beginning band members will need a music stand for practicing at home and the book “Standard Of Excellence(second edition) Volume 1”.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions,

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