

Woodsfield Elementary
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BEGINNING BAND PARENT MEETING

Frequently Asked Questions:

If your question is not listed here, please see the band director.

Questions:

- 1) What instrument should my child play?
- 2) How soon do we need an instrument? When does band start? What is the attendance expectation?
- 3) Should we rent or buy an instrument?
- 4) Are there school instruments to rent?
- 5) May we use an old family instrument?
- 6) May I purchase an instrument from newspaper add, garage sale, or online?
- 7) What if my child changes his/her mind and wants to try a different instrument during the school year?

Answers:

1) Q What instrument should my child play?

Sometimes the instrument we recommend is not the instrument you envisioned your child playing. Keep in mind that each child's physical features play an important role in finding his or her best fit.

For example, choosing the flute because your child desires to play it or because his or her friends are playing it does not necessarily mean your child will experience success in producing a good sound. He or she may actually be more predisposed to play a trumpet or a clarinet successfully.

In addition, we strive to maintain balanced instrumentation throughout the Woodsfield schools. Just as a baseball team cannot function with six catchers and no outfielders, a good band depends on all instrument sections being filled and not overloaded. We certainly do not want your child to play an instrument they do not like, but we appreciate your cooperation and support of our recommendations whenever possible.

If your child wanted to play percussion, we tested his or her rhythm skills. Due to the limited amount of percussion parts and instruments, we are only able to take a limited number of percussion students. If you have any question about your child's instrument placement, feel free to contact the director.

2) Q How soon do we need an instrument? When does band start? What is the attendance expectation?

Everyone should plan to have an instrument, supplies and lesson book by **December 5th**. We will begin after-school Band Activities on **December 8th**. Attendance is strongly encouraged. Students with poor attendance will not be able to progress properly like their peers. In addition, poor attendance negatively affects the band as a whole. Students with poor attendance will not be permitted to perform with their peers when the band performs. If you have schedule issues or other extracurricular conflicts, the director will work with you to make conflict compromises. It is important that the director is notified at least 1 week before conflicts, unless the conflict is an emergency.

3) Q Should we rent or buy an instrument?

We always suggest renting for a few months to see how well your child likes the instrument and how well they progress. CA House Music offers different options for buying and renting. You are encouraged to research your options and to make the best financial decision for your family. Using CA House as your vendor is the recommended method of obtaining instruments.

4) Q Are there school instruments to rent?

The school district has very few instruments for school rental. This may be an option for a few people but would not stretch very far (and some instruments not at all). Please contact your school's band teacher for availability and cost.

5) Q May we use an old family instrument?

Yes. However we **strongly suggest** you take the instrument to a local music store to make sure it is **in good working condition**. *There is nothing more frustrating for a beginner than trying to learn how to play an instrument that does not work properly or play in tune.*

6) Q May I purchase an instrument from a newspaper add, garage sale, or online?

It is possible to find good instrument buys from these sources. As you would with any purchase of this type, use extreme caution. Be sure the instrument is of **good quality** and **in good working condition**. *There is nothing more frustrating for a beginner than trying to learn how to play an instrument that does not work properly or play in tune.* This packet includes a suggested brands list to assist you in finding good quality brands. *Be sure to have the instrument checked over and put into good playing condition before the first day of Band.*

7) Q What if my child changes his/her mind and wants to try a different instrument during the school year?

We generally discourage switching instruments during the first year, as it takes much time and effort to master the technical challenges of playing any instrument. However, we understand that there are exceptions. If your child has been unable to progress or has become extremely frustrated, please consult with the band teacher. They may have some additional ideas that could help your child improve or thoughts on another instrument which may be a better fit.

-SCHEDULE TO BE DISCUSSED AND ATTACHED SHORTLY!!!

Recommended Instrument Brands

The manufacturers on this list have a long established reputation for quality and excellence with their instruments. It is of our professional opinion / experience that the instrument manufacturers on this list are a great place for you to start in your search for an instrument for your child to play. The following list is our suggestion and not required for participation in the program.

Flute

- Armstrong
- Emerson
- Gemeinhardt
- Pearl
- Yamaha

Trombone

- Bach
- Besson
- Holton
- King
- Yamaha

Clarinet

- Buffet
- LeBlanc
- Selmer
- Vito
- Yamaha

Euphonium / Baritone

- Bach
- Willson
- Yamaha

Alto Saxophone

- Conn-Selmer
- Selmer
- Selmer-Paris
- Yamaha

Percussion (Bell Kits)

- Ludwig
- Musser
- Pearl
- Vic Firth

Trumpet / Cornet

- Bach
- Conn
- King
- Yamaha

Percussion (Drum Kits)

- Ludwig
- Pearl
- Yamaha
- Vic Firth

All 6th-8th grade band students need the following items for band:

-A working instrument

-Essential Elements 2000, Book 1 (Yellow Cover) for your instrument

-Clarinet and Saxophone students only: 3-4 Reeds (2 or 2 1/2) at all times

The following is a list of accessory equipment and cleaning supplies to keep the instruments working well.

1. Flutes

- Tuning Rod
- Silver Polishing Cloth (outside)
- Silk Swab (inside) or Pad Saver

2. Clarinets and Saxophones

- Cloth Pull Through Swab or Pad Saver
- Cork Grease
- Reed Guard
- Mouthpiece Cap

3. Trumpets

- Valve Oil
- Lacquered Brass Polishing Cloth
- Cleaning Snake
- Tuning Slide Grease
- Brass Mouthpiece Brush and Valve Brush

4. Trombones

- Trombone Slide-O-Mix or Slide Cream
- Lacquered Brass Polishing Cloth
- Cleaning Snake
- Tuning Slide Grease
- Brass Mouthpiece Brush

5. French Horns

- Rotor Oil
- Lacquered Brass Polishing Cloth
- Tuning Slide Grease
- Brass Mouthpiece Brush

6. Tuba

- Lacquered Brass Polishing Cloth
- Tuning Slide Grease
- Brass Mouthpiece Brush

7. Percussion

- Bell Mallets (Hard Plastic on End)
- Snare Drum Sticks

Optional items for practice at home (not required):

- Music Stand
- Tuner (to tune instrument, student's ear)
- Metronome (for steady rhythm practice)