

August 13, 2014

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Beginning Band for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students is now being organized. This letter is to inform about band and to give you information about renting or buying an instrument. Band is a great way for your child to become involved with music and the fine arts and teach them skills they can use for a lifetime.

This year you have three options for renting or purchasing an instrument. We will have representatives from Flesher Hinton music in Denver, Colorado in Leadville sometime in early September to provide instruments for sale, or rent. For information about prices and terms before this meeting you may contact them at 303-433-8891 or toll free at 800-225-8742. You can also do your instrument rental online by visiting [www.flesherhinton.com](http://www.flesherhinton.com). The date and time for their display will be posted on the district website as soon as information becomes available. **Flesher Hinton will be at LCIS on September 15<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8 PM.**

Option two is to rent or purchase from Music and Arts, a national wide musical instrument retail chain that specializes in band instruments. You can rent or purchase your instrument through their website [Musicarts.com](http://Musicarts.com). **Music and Arts will be at LCIS on September 17<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8 PM. Music and Arts has some band instrument rentals for as low as \$16.99 per month!**

Both companies offer rent to own payment programs, where you pay to rent but that money goes to the purchase of the instrument, make enough rental payments and the instrument is yours!

Finally, option three is to receive a school instrument through our scholarship program. We will reserve a select amount of school instruments for students who apply and qualify for a music instrument scholarship. Only students who apply and receive a scholarship will receive an instrument from the school. A scholarship application is attached to this letter. \*Please note, not all applicants will receive a scholarship.

Students and parents are encouraged to pick whatever instrument they feel they want. However, some instruments will be limited, for example the saxophone is always a popular instrument for beginners and to ensure a balanced ensemble there will be a limited number of saxophone spots available at a first come first serve basis. If you know your child wants to play saxophone please contact me to reserve a spot. Percussion is also another popular choice. **Students interested in percussion must pass a rhythm skill and note identification test or currently be taking private piano lessons in order to be considered for the percussion spots. Again if your child is interested in percussion please contact me to get a study guide for the skills test.**

We have attached a sheet of frequently asked questions about beginning band. If you have any questions or concerns not answered in this letter please contact us.

Sincerely,

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## FAQ About Starting Band

1. Does my child need any prior experience?  
No, not any! All note reading, counting rhythms, and playing of all instruments will be taught in detail from the opening of the case to playing the concert.
2. How will I know which instrument best fits my child?  
You may not. Often students want to play an instrument that they have seen on TV or that a relative has played and it does not fit their teeth structure, lip size, etc. **Frequently many students decide on the drums and think that they will be easy to play, when actually that instrument requires the most self-discipline and piano skills.** Students and parents need to try to keep an open mind on what instrument may fit the student the best and make a decision after all the instruments have been tried.
3. Are there any after school rehearsals?  
Yes. Student enrolled in Band with Project Dream will have band rehearsals Tuesdays and Thursdays after school. You do not need to be in Project Dream to be in band. If you wish to get extra help, you can come any Tuesday and Thursday after school for lessons/tutoring. Only students involved with Project Dream **MUST** be at after school rehearsals. Beginning band will normally take place during enrichment time for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students, three days a week.
4. When do we get an instrument?  
We will have beginning band instrument try out and rental nights on September 15<sup>th</sup> and September 17<sup>th</sup>. At this time, we will have a music dealer present that offers a lease/ purchase plan. Flesher Hinton out of Denver will be here on September 15<sup>th</sup>. This company has excellent instruments and repair services. On September 17<sup>th</sup> we will have Music and Arts in Denver, this company has more affordable rental prices. Both offer a like rent to own plan for the instrument. If you rent it long enough, you own it. You may get an instrument from these companies or shop around. Either way, we would be glad to help with some recommended brands and would be glad to check out any used instruments you may be considering. **Beware of catalogue or internet companies, and purchases from major discount chains. Very often these instruments are less expensive, but are of inferior quality and difficult for beginning players. In addition, instruments from these sources often come with poor warranties and instrument repair shops sometimes refuse to work on them.**
5. Can my child be in band and in other activities like sports?  
Yes. Many successful band members have been active in sports, drama, and many other extracurricular activities.
6. What about uniforms? Books and music?  
There are no uniforms to buy. Sheet music is provided the only book needed to purchase is the beginning band method book. The cost is around 8 to 10 dollars. These books will be available to purchase at the instrument rental meeting. To see a full list of supplies see attached supplies sheet.
7. Will piano or other music lessons interfere with band?  
No. In fact many of the skills learned will complement each other and improve their skills on the first instrument studied.
8. What is the cost of purchasing, renting, or leasing an instrument?  
It depends on the instrument. You can get specific information about costs and policies from Flesher Hinton at (800) 225-8742. For you online savvy parents Flesher Hinton has an excellent online order website at [www.flesherhinton.com](http://www.flesherhinton.com). This company also provides excellent repair service for used and new instruments. You may also contact Music and Arts. They have three stores in Denver and you can contact them through their website [musicarts.com](http://musicarts.com). You are under no obligation to purchase from either of these companies.

## **Beginning Band Supplies**

### **All Beginning band students:**

1. *Tradition of Excellence- Comprehensive Band Method* by Bruce Pearson Book 1 for your instrument. (Comes with audio cd and dvd video)
2. Sharpened pencil to stay in band folder (folder will be provided by school)
3. Folding music stand to stay at home for home practice
  
4. Instrument accessories for your instrument as listed below (all mouthpieces usually come with the instrument, these are suggested sizes);

**Flutes:** Cleaning rod and small thin, absorbent cloth to clean the inside of your flute

**Oboes:** Silk oboe swab, cork grease, small cup to hold water for soaking reeds, 3-4 playable oboe reeds (medium-soft strength). You can order your reeds from *Nielsen Woodwinds* at [www.nielsen-woodwinds.com](http://www.nielsen-woodwinds.com). *Order 3 Red string medium-soft oboe reeds (not blanks)*. Nielsen reeds last longer, are hand-made and cost less in the long run.

**Clarinets:** Silk or cotton clarinet swab, cork grease, *Vandoren M-13-Lyre mouthpiece*, box of *Rico Royal* clarinet reeds (strength #2.5 or #3.0), reed case.

**Saxophones:** Silk alto saxophone swab, *Selmer C-star mouthpiece*, cork grease, box of *Rico Royal* alto saxophone reeds (strength #2.5), reed case

**Trumpets:** *Bach 5C* trumpet mouthpiece, Valve oil, slide grease or 3 in 1 oil, small cloth as water rag

**French horns:** Rotor oil, valve oil, slide grease, small cloth as water rag

**Trombones:** *Bach 6.5 AL* mouthpiece, trombone slide cream (*Trombotine*), small spray water bottle, slide grease or 3 in 1 oil, small cloth as water rag

**Baritones:** *Bach 6.5 AL* mouthpiece, Valve oil, slide grease or 3-1 oil, small cloth as water rag

**Tubas:** *Conn-Helleberg* standard size mouthpiece, tuba mouthpiece case, Valve oil, slide grease or 3-1 oil, small cloth as water rag

**Percussion:** *Vic Firth* Heavy Hitter 12" Practice Pad. *Vic Firth* SD1 snare drum sticks, *Tomahawk* beginner snare drum sticks & *Innovative Percussion* F9 xylophone mallets and stick bag. You may purchase or rent a snare and bell kit, but it is not required.