



# HARMONY BAND

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Dear Sixth Grade Band Student and Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to the Harmony Middle School Band program! The band program at Harmony Middle School has a long history of excellence, and I am excited to welcome you to help us continue this long standing tradition!

The 6th Grade Band class is a beginning level course, offering instruction in beginning Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba, and Mallet Percussion. Later in the school year, students that have begun Mallet Percussion will begin learning non-pitched Percussion (snare drum, bass drum, cymbals, etc.). Please note that drum set/drum kit are not part of the beginning band program. Piano, guitar, and orchestral string instruments are also not included in the program.

The Sixth Grade Band is not a performance oriented class, it is designed to maximize instructional time so that students will be ready to contribute to a performance class (Concert or Symphonic Band) in 7<sup>th</sup> Grade. We do have two concert performances scheduled for this year, student participation in these performances is required.

Students will need to have their instrument for use during class no later than **September 5, 2019**. Please review the needed materials on the following pages for the beginning band instrument needs. There are several nearby music stores that have excellent rent-to-own programs. Where you go to rent or buy your instrument is your personal choice. I would suggest that you shop around for the best plan to suit your needs. You may rent or purchase new or used instruments. Used instruments of good quality which are in good condition are sometimes a bargain. Please remember that the old saying "you get what you pay for," is very true in purchasing a band instrument. Large discount stores and non-music online retailers are full of instruments which may look shiny and new, but may be of inferior quality. To make your child's educational experience pleasant and trouble free, please obtain an instrument of good quality. If you have questions about specific instruments, please feel free to email me links, pictures, etc. and I would be happy to help!

Please be sure to fill out the attached paperwork and return it to Mr. Fairchild as soon as possible. Welcome to the band program, and I look forward to another successful year of excellence in instrumental music!

Sincerely,

Chris Fairchild - Band Director, Harmony Middle School

**HOME PRACTICE**

Home practice is essential for student success. Students are required to bring their instrument home for practice several times a week, and it is strongly recommended for students to bring their instrument home every day. Please work 10-15 minutes of practice time into your child’s daily homework routine. A good practice session for a first year player would include:

- Warm-up (breathing exercises, long tones/lip slurs/rudiments): 2-4 minutes
- Scales (“First 5 Note” sheets, later in year assigned scales in instructional material): 3-5 minutes
- Assigned exercises, performance music: 5-7 minutes

Students are encouraged to practice with friends in small group settings when desired! Group practice can be a great motivation to students!

**6th Grade Band Calendar - all rehearsals and performances are required and graded!**

**Monday, December 16, 3:45-5:30pm ---- 6th Grade Band Rehearsal**

**Tuesday, December 17, 7pm ---- Winter Concert**

**Tuesday, May 26, 3:45-5:30pm ---- 6th Grade Band Rehearsal**

**Wednesday, May 27 , 7pm ---- Spring Concert**

**MUSIC SUPPLIES AND ACCESSORIES**

**METHOD BOOK:** 6<sup>th</sup> grade band students will be provided all instructional materials this year! No method book is required!

**INSTRUMENTS: All students who play Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, and Mallet Percussion will be required to have their own instrument for school and home use.**

Percussionists should rent or purchase a drum pad and bell set OR a “bell kit” like the ones available at the local music stores. *Students who play Bassoon, French Horn, Baritone, and Tuba may rent a school instrument for \$100*, but are required to have their own mouthpiece for home and school use. Students that play Tuba will rent a home instrument that will stay at home throughout the year, and use a school tuba that stays at school in class. The rental fee covers use of both the home and school instrument.

We do have a limited number of school flutes and clarinets to rent for 6th Graders if you are unable to get your own instrument. We do not have any school trumpets, saxophones, or percussion kits available, students that select those instruments must provide their own without exception. If you are in need of renting a school flute or clarinet, please contact Mr. Fairchild as soon as possible.

**OTHER SUPPLIES:** Please see the following page for supplies specific to each instrument.

*please detach and return the below*

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Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

I have received and understand the requirements, materials, and calendar for 6th Grade Band. I will provide all needed materials by September 5 and understand that rehearsals and performances are required.

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **MATERIALS NEEDED FOR BAND**

### **FLUTE:**

- Instrument (suggested brands: Gemeinhardt, Yamaha, Selmer, Miyazowa, Armstrong, Jupiter)
- Handkerchief style cleaning cloth
- Cleaning/tuning rod

### **OBOE:**

- Instrument (suggested brands: Fox, Selmer, Renard, Yamaha, Armstrong)
- Bore swab
- Cork grease
- Small container to soak reeds (old camera film case, pill bottle, etc.)
- Reeds (strength medium soft). Always have at least two working reeds!
- Reed case

### **BASSOON:**

- Instrument (can be rented from the Harmony MS band program).
- Bore swab
- Cork grease
- Small container to soak reeds (old camera film case, pill bottle, etc.)
- Reeds (strength medium soft). Always have at least two working reeds!
- Reed case

### **CLARINET:**

- Instrument (suggested brands: Buffet, Selmer, Yamaha, LeBlanc, Armstrong, Jupiter)
- Cork grease
- Bore swab (handkerchief or silk)
- Mouthpiece brush
- Box of 10 reeds (strength #2 ½.) \*Note - reeds will need to be replaced regularly!

### **SAXOPHONE:**

- Instrument (suggested brands: Yamaha, Selmer, Keilwerth, Conn, King, Jupiter)
- Cork grease
- Neck swab and Bore swab (handkerchief style bore swab works best!)
- Mouthpiece brush
- Box of 10 reeds (strength #2 ½.) \*Note - reeds will need to be replaced regularly!

**FRENCH HORN:**

- Instrument (can be rented from the Harmony MS band program)
- Mouthpiece (Bach, Blessing, or Schilke 11 preferred)
- Rotary oil
- Mouthpiece brush

**TRUMPET:**

- Instrument (suggested brands: Bach, Kanstul, Selmer, Holton, Yamaha, Getzen, Conn, King, Jupiter)
- Valve oil and slide grease
- Cleaning snake
- Mouthpiece brush

**TROMBONE:**

- Instrument (suggested brands: Selmer, Yamaha, Kanstul, Bach, Getzen, King, Conn, Jupiter)
- Slide oil OR slide cream and small spray bottle for water
- Cleaning snake
- Mouthpiece brush

**BARITONE:**

- Instrument (can be rented from the Harmony MS band program)
- Mouthpiece (Bach or Blessing 6 ½AL preferred)
- Valve oil
- Mouthpiece brush

**TUBA:**

- Instrument (can be rented from the Harmony MS band program)
- Mouthpiece (Conn Helleberg 7B, Bach 18, or Blessing 18 preferred)
- Valve oil
- Mouthpiece brush
- Small case for mouthpiece

**PERCUSSION:**

- Bell kit with practice pad (suggested brands: Pearl, Ludwig, Mapex, Yamaha, Vic Firth)
- Stick bag for storage of sticks and mallets
- One pair of drum sticks (suggested brands: Vic Firth, Pro Mark)
- One pair of plastic or rubber bell mallets.
- One pair of yarn mallets.
- One pair of staccato timpani mallets (optional)