

Mason Intermediate School Beginning Band Instrument **RENTAL** Preferences

- 🎵 This is our just **RENTAL** list for beginners, not for purchase! A list of recommended up-grade instruments meant for experienced players will be provided when it comes time to consider making a purchase. Before you buy, *please* contact a band director.
- 🎵 We will start band on SEPTEMBER 1– students should bring their instruments and book Tuesday/Wednesday of that week.
- 🎵 Have a family owned instrument? If it works properly, your child can use it this year. Contact us if you need help evaluating it.
- 🎵 Need an instrument? We highly recommend the following **RENTAL** instruments. They should include the following accessories:

FLUTES

Yamaha preferred – should come with cleaning / tuning rod.
Gemeinhardt is also acceptable.

CLARINETS - Yamaha

MOUTHPIECE - Hite Premier
LIGATURE - Rovner
REEDS - 2 ½ Rico

PLEASE NO #2 REEDS!!!! Cork grease & swab included.

ALTO SAXOPHONES - Yamaha

Factory mouthpiece is fine
LIGATURE - Rovner
REEDS - 2 ½ Rico

PLEASE NO #2 REEDS!!!! Cork grease & swab included.

TRUMPETS - Yamaha

MOUTHPIECE - Genuine Bach 5 ‘C’ (this is new)
Should come with valve oil and slide grease.

***DOUBLE* FRENCH HORNS** (not singles)

MOUTHPIECE - Laskey 75G
Available online... www.laskey.com
Horns should come with Rotor Oil and slide grease.

TROMBONES - Yamaha

MOUTHPIECE - Genuine Bach 6 ½ AL (this is new)
Should come with slide cream AND slide grease.

BARITONES – Conn, Yamaha, Accent

MOUTHPIECE - Genuine Bach 6 ½ AL (this is new)
Should come with valve oil and slide grease.

*** PERCUSSIONISTS will be chosen mid-way 6th grade from students who start band playing a woodwind or brass instrument.** Students interested in percussion will need to play a woodwind or brass instrument in 6th grade to learn to read music and count rhythms. After ½ a year, students interested in percussion will go through an audition process to determine who will be allowed to change for middle school band. Percussionists will begin in 7th grade band on mallet instruments and snare drum rudiments. Please contact a band director if you have any questions.

***WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND RENTING INSTEAD OF PURCHASING for many reasons. DO NOT BUY instruments where you buy groceries and tires!**

Many discount stores are selling instruments of very, very poor quality. Please don't buy these instruments. Their low price may lead you to believe you are getting a great 'deal', but the price reflects the questionable integrity of materials and workmanship used in the manufacturing process. You need to be warned that most instrument repair shops will refuse to do work on 'Instrument-Shaped-Objects'. For example, the metal used for their woodwind keys is often so soft, it bends under normal use. Instrument repair shops can do nothing to change the quality of metal used at the manufacturer.

*** PLEASE be wary of internet and garage sale 'specials'**. There is junk out there, so if you have ANY doubt regarding the integrity of an instrument, we'd be happy to check it for you before you buy it. We've seen a lot of student frustration caused by instruments of poor quality. This is a good example of 'you get what you pay for' in most cases. Don't hesitate to contact us if you have any doubt!!!

****Every student will also need our NEW METHOD BOOK, "ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS 2000", Book 1 for your student's instrument. It should include a play-along CD.***

We highly recommend "SmartMusic", a computer software practice program that provides instant feedback on playing accuracy for students. It is available for purchase on-line at: www.smartmusic.com. Visit the website and take the video "tour". This annual subscription costs about \$30, but may require the one-time purchase of a computer microphone. You should receive a special 15% Mason discount by creating an account during the ordering process.

MASON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

6th Grade Band

Parent Informational meeting – a summary of FAQs

What equipment is necessary to participate in 6th grade band?

A band instrument and “Essential Elements 2000” (BOOK 1) method book*.

**This book is different from what we have used in the past. It should come with a CD.*

Please refer to the ‘Band instrument preferences’ sheet regarding specifics for each instrument. The method book should be available to purchase at area music stores for \$9, and includes a play-along CD! We highly recommend “**SmartMusic**”, a computer software practice program that provides instant feedback on playing accuracy for students at home. It is available for purchase on-line at: www.smartmusic.com. Visit the website and take the video “tour”. This annual subscription costs about \$30, but may require the one-time purchase of a computer microphone. You should receive a special 15% Mason discount by creating an account during the ordering process.

Rental information -

We recommend renting an instrument (instead of outright purchase) at the beginning stage of band for several reasons. First of all, you may be unsure about your child’s musical potential and how long they will participate in band. Secondly, some students need to try more than one instrument to find out which is best suited to them. Most music companies have lease-to-own programs where your monthly rental fee is put into an account that can be applied towards eventual purchase. If you choose to change instruments, your money should transfer accounts. Thirdly, if your student demonstrates exceptional aptitude for an instrument, you might want to consider purchasing an upgraded model at the end of the rental period. We will have a list of up-graded instrument recommendations more suitable for experienced players when it comes time to make a purchase. Mason Intermediate Band does not have instruments for rent. We recommend using the following music instrument companies. ***They each have school-specific lease/rental plans that we have specially requested for Mason band students. Try their online rental – delivery service!***

BUDDY ROGER’S MUSIC (931-6780) / MOELLER MUSIC (777-7474)

www.joinband.com

www.MoellerMusicOnline.com

If you go in person, make the salesperson aware that you are from Mason and take the Instrument recommendation sheet with you.

-because every band program has specific requests that vary from district to district.

We feel very comfortable referring these companies to you because we trust their instrument inventory. There are other music stores that you can use, but we cannot vouch for their instrument quality (Be careful!). There are differences in rental programs, so here are some details to keep in mind as you compare companies:

- **Price differences** may reflect varying policies regarding instrument repair and maintenance such as: loaner instruments while repairs take place; or types of coverage (just repair, or complete loss coverage?).
- Buddy Rogers offers the option of renting gently **used or brand new instruments**; Moeller Music *only rents used instruments* – but both music stores allow you to apply your investment towards purchase of a new student model or upgrade.
- Ask about the **total purchase price and length of rental period** when comparing the monthly payments. Moeller only allows you to accrue 18 months of rental fees towards purchase, where Buddy Rogers lets you pay monthly until it is completely paid off. Be sure to ask what the total purchase price would be at each store.
- **Extras** like music stands, metronomes, cleaning kits, and tuners are nice but not required. **Please examine the practice environment your child will have at home.** Will they be able to read their music while maintaining appropriate posture and playing position? A music stand purchase might help with this.

***** If you would like to send in completed rental applications to school with your child, we can give them to the music stores *NOW TO RESERVE* your instrument, insuring they won't run out of your choice. Music companies will deliver the instruments to school. Rental accounts would not be billed until school starts.**

PLEASE avoid buying instruments where you buy groceries and tires! Many discount stores are selling instruments of very, very poor quality. Please don't buy these instruments. Their low price may lead you to believe you are getting a great 'deal', but the price reflects the questionable integrity of materials and workmanship used in the manufacturing process. The music industry has labeled these so called instruments "ISOs" (instrument shaped objects). You need to be warned that most instrument repair shops will refuse to do any work on ISOs. For example, the metal used for woodwind keys can be so soft that it bends under normal use. Instrument repair shops can do nothing to change the quality of the metal used at the manufacturer.

Warning: Be wary of Internet and garage sale 'specials'. There is junk out there, so if you have ANY doubt regarding the integrity of an instrument, we'd be happy to check it for you before you buy it. We've seen a lot of student frustration caused by instruments of poor quality. This is a good example of 'you get what you pay for' in most cases.

What do we need to do if we already own the instrument our student will play?

As long as the instrument in question is functioning properly, the only thing left to do is to purchase the method book **ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS 2000, BOOK 1** (for the corresponding instrument). If you have an instrument you'd like us to check for playability, we retrieve phone messages and emails all summer. Don't hesitate to contact us if we can help.

When will students need their equipment?

Our goal is for all students to bring in their instrument the second week of school (approximately Sept 1). They are welcome to use the storage room located in the **band room**. Please don't wait too late in the summer to research rental programs. Many music stores run out of the preferred instruments in mid August (see the last paragraph on page 1).

How does the 6th grade band schedule work?

6th grade band is an optional activity that meets during the school day as a part of the intervention schedule. Three times a week the students will be pulled from their intervention classroom to learn how to play a band instrument.

<u>Woodwinds</u> (flutes / clarinets / saxophones)	will have band on MON, WED, & FRI
<u>Brass</u> (trumpets / French horns / trombones / baritones)	will have band on TUES, THURS, & FRI

You will find out what time intervention happens in the daily schedule from your child's academic team. Students CAN participate in band if they are involved in other intervention activities because we coordinate our schedule with the ACT / Speech / Reading intervention teachers to make sure students receive all the services they are entitled. We have a great spirit of cooperation among all the intervention teachers, and are usually able to work out any conflicts or difficulties per individual child as needed.

Which instrument should my child play?

We believe that at this age students deserve the opportunity to explore as many interests and activities as possible. For this reason, we encourage parents to let their students choose the instrument they are most enthusiastic about playing.

Go to: www.masonbands.com

- **Intermediate School**
- **Choose instrument - and/or -**
- **Instrument descriptions**

During demonstrations to all the 5th grade classes before spring break we played each instrument and explained how each instrument works. The decision process of choosing WHICH instrument to play can sometimes be challenging for students so we encourage them to consider which sound they prefer, and the physical demands between the instrument families. Woodwind instruments require good finger dexterity and fine-motor skills, while brass instrument success depends more on physical effort.

We also discussed our desire to produce a “quality concert band sound” through balance between instrument groups. **The alto saxophone is a very popular, but very loud instrument. Having too many saxophone players can make it difficult to sound good as a group. For this reason, we are limiting the number of students who can play saxophone.** It is important to turn in the enrollment form prior to the listed ‘due date’ if your student would like to play the saxophone. After the due date, we will ‘close’ saxophone enrollment with the exception of move-in students who have previous experience on that instrument.

We will NOT be teaching percussion in 6th grade band. PERCUSSIONISTS will be chosen mid-way 6th grade from students who start band playing a woodwind or brass instrument. *Students interested in percussion will need to play a woodwind or brass instrument in 6th grade to learn to read music and count rhythms. After ½ a year, students interested in percussion will go through an audition process to determine who will be allowed to change for middle school band. Percussionists will begin in 7th grade band on mallet instruments and snare drum rudiments with a percussion specialist as their instructor. Please contact a band director if you have any questions.*

Class expectations -

Since many families are spending money to have equipment for this class, we want to assure you that band is taken very seriously in terms of structure, curriculum, and instruction. Our focus will be to teach students to play an instrument, read music independently, and perform in **two required evening concerts** their first year. Performances usually take place in December and May. (More info will come home this fall regarding concerts.)

The other expectation that takes place outside of class is **home practice**. It is vital for success that students play at home to reinforce the skills we teach at school. Just like learning to read words, the more reminders students can give themselves when reading music notation, the faster they will improve. The body also needs reminders in manipulating the instrument and creating good muscle ‘memories’. Each band member will be asked to submit a sample practice plan this fall. The recommended practice amount for beginning band is 60 minutes per week. This can be divided up to fit with students’ other activities, but keep in mind that the number of times per week is more important than the length of each practice session.

Grades are primarily based on daily contributions in class. This includes being prepared with instrument, music, and demonstrating appropriate effort. If a student does forget their instrument on a band day, they are still expected to come to class. Learning can still take place IF they are present.

Because we realize that band is not for everyone, but support the idea that students deserve the chance to try, we have established a standard response to the question “what if my child decides not to continue for the entire year?” We’d like to ask that your student make a commitment to ‘stick’ with band until after performing in the December concert. A student really can’t learn enough technique on an instrument in less than 4 months to have given it an honest try. The performance itself is also a big part of band participation that they need to experience. (Consider attending all the practices for an athletic activity, but not actually playing in the game!!!) If any student does desire to quit, please contact us by note, email, or phone call so that we know that parents have been involved in and are aware of this decision.

Please don’t hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

6th grade band directors at Mason Intermediate – Building #56 (459-2850)

Ms. Christy Downer downerc@Mason.k12.oh.us

ext. # 75240

Flutes and all Brass instruments

Mr. Chad Fourman fourmanc@Mason.k12.oh.us

ext. # 75241

Clarinets and Saxophones