



# 2020-2021 5<sup>th</sup> GRADE BAND

## Beginning Information



Mr. David Hock

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### COMMITMENT & SIGN-UP

- Band in middle school is an assigned class and students who sign up for band must attend weekly lessons and rehearsals or be marked absent.
- Students are expected to commit to band and a single instrument for the entire school year.
- Students will be assigned a lesson group based on the instrument they choose. The earlier you decide on your instrument the better.

Each student must have parent permission to join band.

**The deadline to sign up for band is Friday, May 29.**

How do I sign up?

- A parent may call or email Mr. Hock:
- 684-4240 ext 3306
- [dehock@tyrone.k12.pa.us](mailto:dehock@tyrone.k12.pa.us)

### ALL ABOUT INSTRUMENTS!!

**What Instruments can I play?** You may choose one of the instruments below. All Instruments are equally fun and require the same amount of effort and practice time!

- Flute
- Clarinet
- Saxophone (Alto/Tenor)

- Trumpet/Cornet
- F Horn/Mellophone
- Trombone

- Baritone/Tuba
- \*\*Percussion (both bells & snare drum)



\*\*Percussionists must learn both drums and keyboard (also called bells or "mallets"). Due to limits on space and equipment, I will only be accepting 10-15 percussionists.

## HOW DO I GET AN INSTRUMENT?

### **SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS**

- The school has a very limited amount of instruments. Use of a school instrument is not guaranteed and parents should first pursue options to rent, buy, or use one you already own.
- School instruments are reserved only for those who cannot afford to rent or buy.
- School instruments have to be signed out and the student is responsible for any damages
- Percussionists will use the equipment at school, but need their own drum pad & sticks for home
- Tuba, baritone and trombone players can use school instruments at school due to transportation limitations, but will still need something to practice at home.

### **RENTING INSTRUMENTS**

- The Band Man
  - 5828 Ohio Avenue, Altoona - (814) 942-7625 - [www.bandman.biz](http://www.bandman.biz)
  - Most affordable, trustworthy local business, in-house repairs & quick turn-around
  - You must contact the store directly by phone and pick-up/drop-off on your own
  - Rent-to-own program (info on website)
- Robert M Sides
  - 1801 North Atherton Street, State College - (814) 861-6882 - [www.rmsides.com](http://www.rmsides.com)
  - Trustworthy, a little more expensive, much longer turn-around for repairs
  - Rentals can be done on their website, they will deliver to the school at no extra cost.
  - Rent-to-own program (info on website)

### **PURCHASING GUIDE**

- A word on cheap instruments: It might seem like a good deal, but consider this...
  - Inexpensive instruments are made with cheaper metals and materials
  - Metals are thinner, causing valves/slides to scrape and often freeze up or stick, causing frustration for the student
  - Keys bend easier, solder joints are weaker, overall they do not hold up very long
  - Instruments that come in colors are most often of the same poor quality materials.
  - From past experience, "new" instruments bought online were unplayable upon arrival and had to be fixed to become playable
  - The Band Man or Robert M Sides may not be able to make repairs and in some cases will refuse to repair these instruments.
  - Students can become quickly frustrated with an instrument that doesn't work well and this may cause them to give up too soon.
- Older instruments are often built better. In some cases, a 50 year old instrument, with a little cleaning, will be much better in the long run than \$100 new instrument from online
- Some trusted Brands of instruments
  - Yamaha – best quality/affordable beginner model instruments
  - Jupiter (intermediate models and up, beginner models are cheaply made)
  - Conn-Selmer: Bach, Holton, LeBlanc, King, Selmer, Conn, Armstrong, Musser, Ludwig
  - Blessing, Bundy, Buffet, Gemeinhardt, Vito, Dynasty, Getzen
  - Older & discontinued brands – Olds, Cleveland
  - Percussion – most brands/price ranges are acceptable for beginners
  - [www.wbw.com](http://www.wbw.com) – good starting point for finding instruments
- If you have questions about a brand of instrument before you buy it, you can contact me or contact one of the repair/music stores above.

## OTHER NEEDED MATERIALS

These items are not needed until the beginning of the school year. Feel free to contact Mr. Hock concerning purchasing any of these items through the school or simply ask at your local music store.

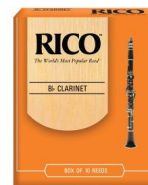
### **CLEANING MATERIALS**

- If you rent an instrument through Robert M Sides or use a school instrument, cleaning materials will come with the instrument.
- If not, make sure you have the following inexpensive cleaning items to keep your instrument in good shape.
  - Woodwinds: Cleaning cloth(s), Cork Grease
  - Brass: valve oil, slide grease
  - Full cleaning kit (comes with additional cleaning items) ~\$12



### **CLARINET & SAXOPHONE REEDS**

- All Clarinet and Saxophone players
- Juno brand, 2.0 strength is recommended for beginners.
- Students using school instruments will have reeds provided to them.
- Students also need an appropriate reed case (will be provided if needed)



## 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE BAND SCHEDULE

5th grade band occurs during their specials period. It is a rotating 7-day schedule.

### **LESSONS**

- Students who chose to play an instrument will attend band lessons in place of general music once during the 7-day rotation. This is a smaller group of similar instruments.

### **FULL BAND**

- ALL 5<sup>th</sup> grade students have Full band one rotation day when we play as a full group and prepare for our concerts.

### **CONCERTS – 2 per year**

\* 1 in the fall (November) and 1 in the Spring (April). Dates yet to be determined

\*More information on these concerts will be announced during the school year.

**If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mr. Hock:**

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**Please contact Mr. Hock to sign up for band**