

Parent Information Letter Pickerington 6th Grade Bands

Dear Prospective Band Parents,

We are looking forward to working with your child this school year and would like to take this opportunity to share some preliminary information with you. If you have any questions after reading through the material, we will be happy to answer any questions you may have. You may reach us by the email provided below:

Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, & Trombone Questions

Toll Gate: Mr. Guirrerri matt_guirrerri@plsd.us

Harmon: Mrs. Parulekar tracie_parulekar@plsd.us

Diley: Mr. Hakes matthew_hakes@plsd.us

Percussion Questions

Toll Gate: Mr. Carmean chris_carmean@plsd.us

Harmon: Mr. Carmean chris_carmean@plsd.us

Diley: Mr. Gorgas timothy_gorgas@plsd.us

Acquiring Your Child's Instrument

A director will be in contact with you and your student about their instrument confirmation by **Saturday, April 18th, 2026**. Once you receive that information, you may complete the process of acquiring an instrument. Please do not proceed in acquiring an instrument until you have received this confirmation from a director.

When you are ready to acquire your child's instrument, you will have several options to consider. If you have access to an instrument through friends or family, **get it checked by a specialist to ensure playability**. Having a quality instrument in excellent working condition is essential for your child's development. In some cases repairs may be necessary to restore your child's instrument to excellent working condition.

If you desire to rent or purchase an instrument, it is very important to find a reputable full-service music store. Here is a list of stores that have served the community well over the years:

Rettig Music 614-792-2100

JunkDude Music 614-920-9580

Music & Arts Center (formerly Colonial Music) 614-836-3200

In all music stores, all rental monies should apply to the purchase price. Some stores may tag finance charges onto your principal. Multiply your monthly rental price by the number of months (make sure to get this number in writing) in your plan to determine your total investment. All stores should offer the option to switch to a different instrument with all previous payments applied to the new instrument. This feature is useful in case your child struggles with his or her first choice of instrument. This usually becomes apparent during the first few months of instruction. Obviously, a good fitting shows strong potential. **Please keep in mind that your child has a greater potential for success if he or she selects an instrument that was played more easily at a fitting.**

Be careful of hidden fees for insurance. First, check your homeowner's policy; you might already be covered. If not, your agent can attach a "rider" that is relatively inexpensive. Any reputable store will offer full repair services and loaner instruments for long repair times so your child doesn't miss educational time and practice.

Avoid the purchase of instruments from Amazon or "Big Box Stores". These instruments, while they might be attractive purchases, are designed very poorly, and often result in being unplayable within 1-2 weeks of instruction. Additionally, when these instruments break, they cannot be repaired, as the material used to make them is too brittle, and instrument repair shops will not work on them.

Required Materials and Accessories

Below we have listed specific requirements. These are to be included in your instrument as part of your rental/purchase price. This is a standard procedure at most instrument stores.

Flute: Cleaning rod, man's cloth handkerchief*

Oboe: Cleaning swab, soft fiber cane reed, cork grease, clean empty pill bottle

Clarinet: Cleaning swab, Van Doren B45, Van Doren M30 or Pyne Polycrystal mouthpiece, three VanDoren size 2.5 reeds, La Voz reedguard for 4 reeds, cork grease

Trumpet: Bach 5C mouthpiece, valve oil, slide cream, small hand towel*

Horn: Bach 5C mouthpiece, rotor oil, slide cream, small hand towel*

Trombone: Bach 6 1/2 AL mouthpiece, spray bottle, slide cream, small hand towel*

Baritone: Bach 6 1/2AL mouthpiece, valve oil, slide cream, small hand towel*

Percussion: Mr. Carmean or Mr. Gorgas will communicate any percussion needs after evaluations.

*indicates item to be supplied by parent

All instrument cases should come with identification tags.

All students will need to purchase a music stand for home practice.

Instrument Brands

The instrumental music department recommends certain brands of instruments for our students. These instruments have a great reputation for sound, quality, and endurance. You may find brands that are less expensive, but those brands often cost you more in the long run. These brands frequently require expensive repair work, and commonly these brands simply are unable to be repaired when they have problems. You will help your child have a strong foundation for success when you buy reputable instruments. For this reason, we strongly recommend the following brands and models:

Flute: Gemeinhardt 22SP, Armstrong 102 or 104, Yamaha Y-281

Oboe: Fox, Selmer 1492B, Yamaha YOB211

Clarinet: Buffet B12, Selmer 301, LeBlanc L7214PC, King 7214PC, Yamaha YCL250 or YCL450

Horn: Conn 14D, Holton H602, King 618, Yamaha YHR314

Trumpet: Bach TR300, Conn 34A, Getzen 390, Yamaha YTR23

Trombone/Baritone: Bach TB300, Yamaha YSI354 or YEP201, Getzen 351 or 8230

Percussion: Mr. Carmean or Mr. Gorgas will communicate any percussion needs after evaluations. **In**

Closing

All students should have their instrument, music stand, and book (**Essential Elements Book 1 or other book communicated by instructor**) by August 18th (first day of school). If you are interested in your child receiving private lessons, we do have excellent teachers who give lessons throughout the school year at Lakeview/Ridgeview and North HS/Central HS. We strongly encourage private lessons! They benefit the child tremendously and give them a solid foundation on which to build. A director can provide private lessons resources to you.

Classes happen during the school day at Toll Gate, Harmon, and Diley. The schedule for band classes will be communicated when the school schedule is finalized. We hope you have found this letter helpful. If you have any questions, please contact your child's director. We are looking forward to working with your child this upcoming school year!

Sincerely, ~The Band Staff