

(6th Graders)

Ockerman Middle School Beginning Band

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to Ockerman Middle School! This document will inform you of the opportunities and expectations for your students to participate in BAND class here at OMS. Band is a class during the day at Ockerman, so your students will be learning one of the instruments offered each and every day of school if they are in the band. Fine Arts education is not only a creative activity; it is a cultural experience for the child. Benefits of being in the band include: responsibility, hard work, dedication, teamwork, self-confidence and pride. Our mission is to be a positive influence by:

"Developing confidence, cooperation, character, responsibility and high standards of excellence through music education."

Please be sure to visit our website for the most up to date information.

WWW.OMSBANDS.COM

Thank you for taking the time to read this information. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions not covered in this packet. We are sure that your child will have a positive and rewarding band experience!

Sincerely,

Adam Proctor
Band Director
Ockerman Middle School
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adam.proctor@boone.kyschools.us

FAQ

Q: Can my child be involved in athletics, cheerleading, etc. and also be in band?

A: Yes! Band meets during the school day, while athletics meet after school. You should not have to choose between being involved in a sport or being involved in band, we support you doing both! The only conflicts could possibly be the two concerts we have a year after school but we try to schedule those so that they do not conflict.

Q: What is the after school commitment?

A: 6th Grade band will put on two concerts that take place after school, one in December and one in May. There may be other opportunities outside of that but they are separate and apart from the band class expectations.

Q: How much knowledge of music or talent does my child need in order to be in band?

A: Different students will come in with varying levels of knowledge and skill. Lacking in either of these areas is no reason not to sign up for band. Supplying knowledge and developing skill is my job. All we ask is that students come in prepared to learn.

Q: How do I sign my student up to be in band?

A: An email has been sent to all in-coming 6th grade students with a link to sign up. The link is also posted on the OMS Band website:

WWW.OMSBANDS.COM

If for some reason these links are not working correctly for you just send me an email at: adam.proctor@boone.kyschools.us and I will make sure that our counselor is aware and get your student in the schedule for band!

Picking a Band Instrument

Students will be able to take time to try out various instruments to see which one might fit them best during the first two weeks of school.

The first week we will focus on two things:

- 1) Reviewing note and rhythm reading
- 2) Choosing a specific instrument
 - a) Students will have their choice of the following:
 - Flute
 - Clarinet
 - Saxophone
 - Trumpet
 - French Horn
 - Trombone
 - Baritone
 - Percussion (Bell Kit/Drum Pad)

From there it will take about a week for everyone to work out how they are going to get an instrument. Which brings up the next point.

How To Get An Instrument?

There are basically three ways to get an instrument:

- 1) Usually the best option is to rent an instrument. This allows a student to get a high quality instrument without the commitment to purchasing for several hundred (or thousand) dollars. Also, when you rent, you get insurance that comes with it covering any repairs that may be needed during the time of the rental. As you make payments to rent, that low cost monthly payment goes toward the purchasing of the instrument. If while you are renting, your child wants to switch to another instrument, it is a simple switch and money rolls over to the new instrument. Because of those benefits, it is highly suggested that beginners rent rather than purchase.
- 2) Purchasing a quality instrument will cost a large amount of money, while beginners don't even know if they will stick with it. You will find instruments for cheap online and at stores, but dramatically lower priced instruments are not a good choice. Most repair shops won't even service them because they cannot get the parts and the materials are such poor quality that they often break when trying to fix them. Purchasing a new instrument for a beginner is simply not a great idea.
- 3) You may have family members that own old instruments that they do not play anymore and you have access to them. Many times this can be the best option. Many of the older instruments are better than what they make now so you might be able to find a gem that works great. If an instrument has not been used in years, just like a car, it will need a tune up.

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This should not be terribly expensive and depending on the quality of the instrument, would likely be worth the cost.

Renting a Band Instrument

There are two music companies in the area that I have worked with for years:

- Wert Music (<https://willismusic.com/musical-instrument-rentals/>)
- Willis Music (<https://www.wertmusic.com/pages/rentals>)

Both of these companies are very reputable and have been servicing schools for many years. They both have field reps that make weekly visits to Ockerman to check and see if anything is needed. Typically students would rent the instrument and the instrument would be delivered to school where I would show them how to put them together and take care of them. Since that is not a possibility at this point, both companies have agreed to do whatever they need to do to get instruments in students' hands. Both companies will do home delivery or pickup.

Renting an instrument is an extra cost and if that cost stands in the way of a student participating in band class this year, please reach out to me. We will do everything we can to make sure that every student has what they need regardless of their financial situation.

6th Grade Band Supplies List

All Students will need to have the following materials AFTER they have chosen an instrument in the first two weeks of school: (Both Wert Music Inc. & Willis Music are local reputable music stores that stock these items)

- **Essential Elements for Band Method Book 1 (Yellow)**
- 1 ½” or 1” 3-ring binder with 5-10 plastic sheet protectors for concert music & handouts.
(This will be important for in person instruction if/when that happens)
- Your Instrument
 - **Flute** - Cleaning Rod and Cloth
 - **Clarinet** - At least 3 reeds (strength 2 or 2 ½), Cleaning Swab, Cork Grease
 - **Saxophone** - At least 3 reeds (strength 2 or 2 ½), Cleaning Swab, Cork Grease, Neck Strap
 - **Trumpet** - Valve Oil, Mouthpiece Brush, Soft Cloth
 - **French Horn** - Rotor Oil, Mouthpiece Brush, Soft Cloth
 - **Trombone** - Slide Oil, Mouthpiece Brush, Soft Cloth
 - **Baritone** - Valve Oil, Mouthpiece Brush, Soft Cloth
 - **Percussion** - Bell Kit, Snare Pad, Snare Sticks, Bell Mallets

Hopefully this is enough information to get us started. I have no doubt that you will have plenty of questions along the way. Please do not hesitate to reach out via email to let me know. If your student is interested in being a part of the Band program here at OMS please send me an email letting me know or fill out the online form that was sent home via email.

Adam Proctor
adam.proctor@boone.kyschools.us