

# Ockerman Middle School 7th/8th Grade Band (COVID-19 ADDITION)

Dear Band Parent,

Welcome to Ockerman Middle School and welcome to 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.

*“The mission of the Ockerman Band program is to achieve the highest standards of music education and music performance; facilitate the musical enrichment of the student membership; and to make a positive difference in the lives of its students by providing opportunities to grow as learners, performers and leaders as they develop confidence, cooperation, responsibility and high standards of excellence and character.”*

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

[WWW.OMSBANDS.COM](http://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  
(859) 282-3240 ext. 177  
adam.proctor@boone.kyschools.us

## **Virtual Instruction: The Plan**

Students will have access to band instructional regardless of the option that was chosen. Mr. Proctor will be hosting live instruction 5 days a week during this virtual month and will continue as long as virtual status continues.

While assessments will include work out of the method books, we will also be learning new songs remotely. I am working on getting funding for Smart Music software for every student. With this program I will be able to assign actual concert music and students will be able to practice it along with the sounds of the other instruments. This will be a key ingredient for success over these strange times.

My hope is that we will be safely back in person sooner than later. When and if that happens I want to be ready to make great music together and I will do everything I can to make that happen.

### **Option 1 (Hybrid):**

Mandatory for students to be present in “Google Meet” on their day (A or B) and may be present on Wednesdays (WINSdays) for added instruction when needed.

### **Option 2 (Virtual):**

Available for students via “Google Meets” each day but showing up is not mandatory.

### **All Students:**

Each “Google Meet” is available for all students regardless of their option choice or their particular day (A or B). I will be available during class times for all students and I am hopeful to see everyone often.

## **Virtual Assessment: The Plan**

I will grade each of the video assignments as a pass or fail. Students will be able to resubmit their videos until they pass, so there is no reason that a student should ever have a poor grade in band class. As long as they are practicing and submitting assignments they will be GREAT!

## **Jazz Band**

Due to the altered schedule the admin was unable to have Jazz Band built into the schedule at this time. If we do return to a normal schedule at some point then I plan to resume Jazz Band as a part of the schedule. **HOWEVER**, I will have jazz band material available for the Jazz students who made the group in May! I will post material in the Jazz Band Google Classroom. When I have a better feel for the schedule during this time, I will allot time for “after school” Google Meet sessions.

## 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.

## Picking Up School Owned Instruments

All of the school owned instruments have been repaired, cleaned and returned! I will set up a time for students who are using school owned instruments to come pick them up once school starts. This will make things easier since I will have a more regular schedule and will be at school for entire days.

## 7th/8th Grade Band Supplies List for 2020-2021

All Students will need to have the following materials: (Both Wert Music Inc. & Willis Music are local reputable music stores that stock these items)

- **7th Grade: Essential Elements for Band Method Book 2 (Red)**
- **8th Grade: Strictly Technique for Band - Swearingen**
- 1 ½" or 1" 3-ring binder with 5-10 plastic sheet protectors for concert music & handouts.
- Your Instrument (Ockerman has a great relationship with **Wert Music** and this is where we suggest you rent your instrument from. Wert Music sends a rep every week to school to make sure everything is being taken care of)
  - **Flute** - Cleaning Rod and Cloth
  - **Oboe** - At least 2 reeds. Cleaning Swab
  - **Clarinet** - At least 3 reeds (strength 3 or 3 ½ ), Cleaning Swab, Cork Grease
  - **Saxophone** - At least 3 reeds (strength 3 or 3 ½ ), Cleaning Swab, Cork Grease, Neck Strap
  - **Trumpet** - Valve Oil, Mouthpiece Brush, Soft Cloth

- **French Horn** - Mouthpiece (Holton Farkas MC), Valve Oil, Mouthpiece Brush, Soft Cloth
- **Baritone** - Mouthpiece (Bach 6 ½ AL - Small Shank)Valve Oil, Mouthpiece Brush, Soft Cloth
- **Trombone** - Slide Oil, Mouthpiece Brush, Soft Cloth
- **Tuba** - Mouthpiece (Blessing 18 or Conn Helleburg 7b), Valve Oil, Mouthpiece Brush, Soft Cloth
- **Percussion** - Stick Bag, Snare Sticks (Vic Firth Ted Atkatz Signature), Bell/Xylo Mallets (Innovative James Ross IP902), \*Yarn Wound Mallets (Vic Firth Robert Van Sice Marimba Mallets-Medium)

\* Eighth grade only

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. I will give you any and all information that I have at that time. Regardless of our instructional challenges that may be in that way this year, we are going to work hard to insure that students get the best experience that we can give them.

Adam Proctor  
adam.proctor@boone.kyschools.us