

Ockerman Middle School

7th/8th Grade Band

Dear Parent,

We would like to invite your child to take part in the Ockerman Middle School Band Program! We encourage all students who are interested in playing an instrument to enroll in band class. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know each student who was in the band this past year and would love to get to know more students who, for whatever reason were not able to sign up for the band class last year.

If your child was in the band class this past year, I can tell you that I would LOVE to see them in band class for 7th and 8th grade! We will also be accepting motivated students into the band class who were NOT in band last year and I would love to have a TON more kids sign up to give it a try, especially if your child is going into 7th grade, as there will be less catching up to do in 7th grade than in the 8th grade. If we get enough students to sign up then we would be able to have two separate classes which would lower the student/teacher ratio making it much easier to be successful and move quickly. If your child has interest in being in the band class but was not last year, please consider the band class for next year.

If your child would like to be a part of the band, please fill out the online form that should have been linked in an email. You can also find a link to the form at:

WWW.OMSBANDS.COM.

Please let me know if you have any questions!

Sincerely,

Adam Proctor
Band Director
Ockerman Middle School
(859) 282-3240 ext. 177
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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!

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 will 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 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 we get an instrument?

A: 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 dollars. Also, when you rent there is insurance that comes with it that covers 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 you rent for much more than a year and if while you are renting, your child wants to switch, 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 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 an instrument for a beginner is simply not a great idea.
- 3) Sometimes we 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. This should not be terribly expensive and depending on the quality of the instrument, would likely be worth the cost.

Band Instruments (for those who would be new to the band this year)

FLUTE (Woodwind Family)

The flute plays the highest notes in the woodwind family and is the only one played by blowing across a hole. Today's flute is made of silver or nickel. The best flute players have a rather flat upper lip with no "tear drop" in the center. Must be rented from a music company.

OBOE (Woodwind Family)

The oboe has two thin flat pieces of wood sewn together (double reed) that goes on the instrument. The body is made of either wood or plastic. It has a unique sound and is one of the more challenging instruments in the band. Players must have a good "ear" for music. Must be rented or purchased from a music company.

CLARINET (Woodwind Family)

The clarinet has a single, flat piece of wood (single reed) clamped onto a hollow mouthpiece. The instrument itself is made of plastic or wood. It has a remarkable range from low to high and from soft to loud. Must be rented or purchased from a music company.

SAXOPHONE (Woodwind Family)

A relatively recent invention (1840) compared to the other instruments, the saxophone combines the single reed of the clarinet and the metal (brass) of the brass instruments. Its mellow sounds blend well with both woodwinds or brass. The saxophone is an important member of the jazz band. Enrollment is limited. Must be rented or purchased from a music company.

TRUMPET (Brass Family)

The trumpet, with its high-pitched brilliant tone, is the leader of the brass family. A trumpet player can produce all the notes of the scale by pressing the valves and changing the lip vibration speed. The best trumpet players tend to have smaller sized lips, but this is not a rule. The trumpet is an important member of the jazz band. Must be rented or purchased from a music company.

FRENCH HORN (Brass Family)

The French Horn is made from 12-16 feet of brass tubing circled around and around. The tone is very mellow and smooth. In addition to using the lips and valves to change the pitch, the player places a hand in the bell to sometimes give a “muted” effect. Instruments can be provided by the school, but are limited availability. Must have a good “ear” for music.

TROMBONE (Brass Family)

This instrument sounds very brassy like the trumpet, but it makes a lower sound. The player changes tones by sliding one tube in and out of the other, rather than by pressing valves. The trombone is an important member of the jazz band. Must be rented or purchased from a music company.

BARITONE (Brass Family)

Like a mini-tuba, the baritone plays the same notes as the trombone, but has a rounder, smoother sound. Due to its valves, it can play technical passages of music with more smoothness and ease. Instruments are provided by the school, but limited availability.

TUBA (Brass Family)

The tuba is the largest and the lowest of the band instruments. Its bass voice gives the deep low tones that are the foundation of the band sound. When unwound, a tuba is 20 feet long. You do not have to “hold it”, it sits on the seat of the musician’s chair. Instruments are provided by the school, but are limited in availability.

PERCUSSION

The Percussion section of the band keeps the beat, builds excitement and adds color to the band sound. A percussionist does not just play drums; he/she plays bells, xylophone, timpani, cymbals, triangle and many other instruments (all school owned). Each member of the percussion section must work together to create the aural illusion of one giant percussion instrument. A 6th grade Percussion Kit must be rented or purchased from a music company. It consists of a practice pad, bells, snare drum sticks and bell mallets. Enrollment is limited.

7th/8th Grade Band Supplies List for 2019-2020

All Students will need to have the following materials before the first day of school:
(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