

New Prairie Bands:
Beginning Band Instrument Letter

Dear Future Band Families –

We are very excited that you have decided to join band for the 2024-25 school year! At this point, you may have had the chance to try out a few different instruments and have decided which one you are going to play in the fall. Or you are going to attend the NPMS Band Sign-up night to play a few instruments.

There are several ways you can get an instrument to start beginning band:

1. You might already have one from a friend or relative.
2. You might have made plans to buy a used one.
3. If neither of these applies, you will need to get an instrument another way. That leaves two options: buy one or “rent-to-own.”

Rent-to-own *HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

- Finally, if you desire to secure a new or like-new instrument on a payment plan, you can order one through Quinlan and Fabish. Once the initial payment is made, there will be no further payments until September. Q&F is a HIGHLY regarded company in the school band instrument business. Their representative calls on the school every week and takes care of any problems we have with band instruments.
- Students who select an instrument that is not a good “fit” for them may change their instrument during the first four months of rental with the permission of both the director and their parents. Students who have a difficult time on an instrument can be far more successful switching instruments if needed. This is one of the main benefits of choosing the rent-to-own option.
- If your instrument needs any repair or adjustment, they will send a free loaner for your child to use during that time. Any questions you have about their rent-to-own program can be answered at band sign-up.
- Payments vary, depending upon the value of the instrument. There are three tiers of instrument prices:
 - Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, Trombone & Percussion kit all have a one-time fee of \$72.00 that covers the 4-month trial period. After the trial period, the monthly payment is \$39.00/mo.
 - Alto Saxophone & Oboe have a 4-month trial fee of \$119.00. After that the monthly payment is \$53.00/mo.
 - Tenor Saxophone, French Horn and Baritone have a fee of \$149.00 for the 4-month trial period, after which the monthly payment is \$63.00/mo.

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Purchase – new and used

First, if you decide to buy an instrument from an outside source or online, PLEASE make sure that it is a brand name instrument. (You will find some examples below). Otherwise you may find that it is not possible to get parts when repairs are needed. You may also find out that many instrument repair shops will not do work on it for that reason. While they are initially less expensive, there are many challenges, such as poor tone quality and the inability to play in tune that will make their price more costly down the line. If there is any question before you buy, please ask one of us.

Recommended instrument brands:

Wind Instruments:

Amati – Armstrong – Bach – Barrington – Blessing – Buffet – Bundy – Conn
– Gemeinhardt – Getzen – Holton – Jupiter – King – Leblanc – Olds – Selmer – Vito –
Yamaha

Percussion:

Vic Firth – Ludwig – Pearl – Yamaha

Second, if you purchase or already have a used instrument, please bring it to the Middle School Band Room (Rm160) before the start of the year so we can examine it before band classes start. There is nothing more frustrating to a beginner than trying to start with an instrument that will not play correctly. We can check it and make recommendations as to whether there are any necessary repairs needed. We can also offer suggestions as to where you might get the repairs done.

Please let us know if you have any questions. We can be reached by email or phone, and are available to help you find the best choice of instrument for your student

Thank you,

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