

Sent July 27, 2020



## Information for Beginner Band Instrument Rental & Supply purchase

Hello Future Cobra Band Families,

We are so excited to have you in our band program this next year! Mr. Macias and I enjoyed meeting your children last week and we are eagerly anticipating a great year.

Now we are ready to move forward with securing an instrument. As a family, you have several options to choose from and we hope to guide your decision. We understand this may be overwhelming and costly, please know that we are here to help you!

### **MUSIC STORE INSTRUMENT RENTAL**

Students who will play flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, or percussion instruments will rent from a music store. Our **first option** for instrument rentals is to rent from one of the two stores in our area. (Music and Arts or H&H Music) We have worked closely with these stores for many years. In fact, I have worked hand in hand with these two stores since teaching at my first school ten years ago! You are in great hands!

The stores will offer a rent-to-own plan in which families pay a monthly fee (ranges from \$35-\$50 a month) to rent. After approx. 2 years in this plan, you will end up owning the instrument! While renting, music stores offer free minor maintenance and you have the option to select other insurance plans as well. Both Mr. Macias and I have a preference for the instrument brand and model to select from. These brands are tried and true for dependability, durability, and contributing to the quality of sound we're looking for. Please know that we are constantly trying to keep up with all brands and models that are out there! We want to make sure our kids are set up with the best while keeping finances in mind. As your child gets older and continues with the band, we encourage seeking an instrument brand or model that is more equipped to support their playing at a more advanced level. Music stores can help facilitate this when the time comes.

### **PURCHASING AN INSTRUMENT**

Our **second option** for instrument rentals is to purchase from a music store or reliable source. Many vendors or retailers offer instruments for purchase but we want to keep you informed if you decide to take this option. Please be cautious of what brand and model you are looking at; the amount of options out there is endless and can be confusing. An "off-brand" instrument may be listed with an appealing price point and deal - if it looks too good to be true, it probably isn't very good. More often than not, off-branded instruments come in various colors! As cool as a blue trumpet might appear, we do not recommend instruments such as these. In keeping up with instrument research, I can honestly say that I have played on many instruments of low price points and they are not good to say the least. The metal and materials are cheap and poorly assembled, the tuning is inconsistent and undesirable, and the specs

of the instrument are not ideal. If those reasons are not convincing enough, music stores or repair techs will have a very hard time performing maintenance on off-brand instruments.

If you would rather purchase the instrument, we strongly encourage you to purchase from the music stores mentioned. Another purchase option can be purchasing a used instrument from a family or friend. Some of you might have a family member or friend who used to be in band or their child was in band and they are willing to sell you their instrument. I have had many families in the past find a really good deal this way!

If you decide to take the instrument purchasing option, we ask that you consult with us before the purchase is made. Even though our recommended list only shows one or two options, it doesn't mean there aren't more good options out there.

### **SCHOOL-OWNED RENTALS**

Students who will play French Horn, Euphonium, or Tuba (school owned instruments) will receive information from Mr. Macias in regards to an instrument rental. Our school fees for these instruments are \$125 for the entire year plus summer 2021. Families also have the option to pay in full or in payments. (i.e. \$50 each semester, \$25 for summer 2021). Music supplies can be secured from the music store.

### **MUSIC SUPPLIES (ACCESSORIES)**

Our music stores are also equipped to allow families to purchase all music accessories needed. If you're like me, I'm always on the hunt for a good deal and saving money! I can say that most supplies from a music store are price-matched to various retailers such as Amazon. If you would like to seek other retailers, we are providing a detailed supply sheet for each instrument.

### **CLASSROOM SUPPLIES**

Along with our music supplies, we have a list of classroom items needed for the school year. (found on the same instrument supply sheet)

### **WHEN TO START**

We suggest starting today! Our music stores are providing rental procedures both online and in-store.

### **HANDOUTS FOR YOU**

You may access our instrument supply sheets, music store flyers and rental instructions, and our recommended instrument list on our website.

[www.cisband.org](http://www.cisband.org)

- Hover over "Future band members," then select "instrument rentals and supplies"

### **OTHER FORMS & FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

Within the first few weeks of school, we will release band forms for the 2020-21 school year. In addition to forms, we will provide info about our booster club and band merchandise.

Thank you!

CIS Band Directors - Mrs. Tran & Mr. Macias

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