

5th Grade Beginning Band



5th grade is the time to start what will hopefully become an important part of your child's education - **BAND!!!** In band we learn teamwork, group and self-discipline, responsibility, dedication, respect, self-confidence, and an incredible amount of material dealing with music education. All of these qualities are important in building one's character.

At the end of their 4th grade year, the students have explored and tried the different instruments available to them in beginning band as a 5th grade student. Your child has expressed interest in wanting to join band and has chosen the



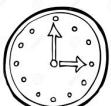
Phew! Now that the hard part is over, it is time to discuss how we can get this instrument in your child's hand! There are three ways you can provide an instrument for your child:

1. One may be sitting in your closet or passed down from someone. Please take the instrument to Kidder Music to have a *free* repair estimate done. Even an instrument sitting for years in a closet could (and most likely will) need repair. We want to set your child up for success in playing an instrument that is ready to go from day one!
2. You can purchase one from a newspaper ad or online. Again, I suggest if possible you take the instrument to Kidder Music for a *free* estimate or please check with me before making your purchase to ensure it is a good brand.
3. You can rent or purchase an instrument from Kidder Music. I highly recommend this rent-to-own option. You are not obligated to a contract for any set amount of time and are only investing a small amount monthly, which does indeed go toward the purchase price of the instrument. It is a good idea to see how dedicated your child will be to the program before purchasing a \$400+ instrument. When you choose this option, your child's instrument will be kept under a repair contract where if something goes wrong with the instrument, the repairs are FREE! And things do go wrong with instruments just as they do a car, no matter how good you take care of it.



Please use caution if you are purchasing an instrument from any place other than a music dealer. There are many instruments out there that really aren't worth purchasing. Why? If instrument repair shops are unable to get parts for the particular brand name and the instrument breaks, there is no way of fixing it. Instruments that are unusual in color may look cool, but fit into this category. And trust me! Instruments do and will break! Broken instruments will be an added frustration to your child's playing and will quickly discourage him/her from continuing. Also, I don't want to see anyone waste their money. Please don't hesitate to contact me to ask if an instrument is acceptable.

A representative from Kidder Music is able to answer any questions you may have on **Tuesday, May 28th from 5:00pm-6:00pm** in the auditorium. You will have the option of starting the rental process that very evening and save you a trip into Peoria! You may also visit the store during store hours. Visit their website at www.kiddermusic.com for more details. If you sign up for an instrument now, the students will not receive their instruments until the beginning of the next school year and that is when the billing cycle would begin.



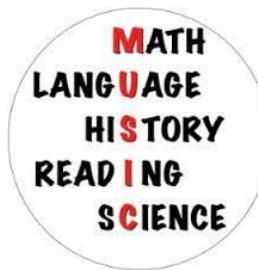
One concern I receive from both parents and students alike is that band will take up too much time. And actually it doesn't at all! The majority of what we do is during the school day. Yes, I suggest and encourage the students to practice at home (gasp!) however, the students set their own individual practice goal so that it is attainable. There are just two performances outside of the school day! I have told the students that this is the year they try band and see if it is for them as beginning band is only offered in 5th grade, so give it a shot!

I know there is a lot of information here. Feel free to contact me and ask any questions you may have. If you'd like to meet with a Kidder Music representative on Tuesday, please let me know so we will be here. All students will need to have their band instruments by Monday, August 26th. They also need an Essential Elements 2000 Book 1 for their instrument. I'm so excited and they are too! It's going to be a great year in band!

Thanks!

Mrs. Mills - vmills@hollis328.net

Note - I never want cost to be an issue for students wanting to participate in band. Hollis does have some school instruments available for student use. Please contact me for more information.



**Beginning Band Form
Due Tuesday, May 28th**

Student Name_____

_____ Yes! I will be in attendance on Tuesday, May 28th to speak with a representative from between 5:00pm-6:00pm.

_____ I am unable to attend the Kidder Music Rental Night. I will make it to the store on my own time.

_____ I have questions and am unable to attend the Kidder Music Rental Night. Please contact me to discuss options. Best way to contact you:_____

_____ We already have the instrument my child has selected at home and will make sure it is in good working condition and will pick up the Essential Elements 2000 Book 1 and have these items ready by Monday, August 26th.

_____ Other. Please explain:

Parent/Guardian Signature

Beginning Band Needs Checklist

Flute

instrument, Essential Elements 2000 Book 1, care kit or handkerchief

Oboe

instrument, Essential Elements 2000 Book 1, care kit, 4 medium soft reeds

Clarinet

instrument, Essential Elements 2000 Book 1, care kit, box of Kidder Music reeds strength 2

*students will move to Juno 2 ½ reeds after they are through with the KM reeds

Alto Sax

instrument, Essential Elements 2000 Book 1, care kit, box of Kidder Music reeds strength 2

*students will move to Juno 2 ½ reeds after they are through with the KM reeds

Trumpet

instrument, Essential Elements 2000 Book 1, care kit

Trombone/Baritone

instrument, Essential Elements 2000 Book 1, care kit

Tuba

students borrow a school instrument but need to purchase a mouthpiece and mouthpiece case,
Essential Elements 2000 Book 1

Percussion

percussion kit (comes with bells and a snare drum practice pad and sticks/mallets for both), stick bag,
Essential Elements 2000 Book 1. Students will keep the kit at home to practice and carry stick bag
with sticks/mallets back and forth to school/home and play on school instruments when at school.

***A music stand is a good idea for all to establish good playing techniques at home, too!**