

HOLLY GROVE MIDDLE

BULLDOGS

BAND



Dear Holly Grove Middle School 6th Grade Band Students and Parents:

First, please allow me to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child to both the school and the band program. I am so very pleased your child has joined the band program here at Holly Grove Middle School. Your child is probably both excited and a bit nervous about middle school. That's why I want band to be a place where he/she is comfortable, has fun and learns a great deal.

During the first week of school, we will be going over the 5 instruments students can start on. This will give your child a chance to see which instrument he/she likes before settling on the instrument they choice to play. On Wednesday, July 14 at 6:00 (Tracks 1, 2, 3) and Friday August 6 at 6:00 (Track 4), we will have a virtual rental meeting so that you can make arrangements to get your child an instrument. Please make every effort to attend, so that your child can begin playing in class on Friday, July 16 (Tracks 1, 2, 3) and Monday August 9 (Track 4).

Of course, there are always questions when band begins, such as:

- Does my child need to know how to read music or have any prior training? **NO!** Although this would be helpful, **everything your child needs to know will be taught in band class.**
- Can band students be in sports, cheerleading and other activities? **DEFINITELY!** There are several band students that are involved in a variety of other activities. In fact, I encourage you to have your child take part in as many activities as possible.
- Which instruments can my child choose from? Your child may select from the following: **FLUTE, CLARINET, SAXOPHONE, TRUMPET, AND TROMBONE.**
- How do I get an instrument? Of course, you are welcome to get your instrument from any source you wish. For your convenience, we will have a local music dealer (Music and Arts) present at our virtual rental meeting on July 14 (Tracks 1, 2, 3) and August 6 (Track 4) who carries the brands we recommend. After talking to them, you can fill-out the necessary paperwork and get your child an instrument.
- Does it really matter what brand of instrument I get; aren't all instruments alike? **ALL INSTRUMENTS ARE DEFINITELY NOT ALIKE!** Although many instrument brands are discounted, these are frequently difficult to maintain and repair, will not play in tune, etc. A relatively inexpensive instrument can later cost you a great deal of money. The old saying is true: "you get what you pay for." The brands I recommend are: Gemeinhardt, Bundy, Artley, Armstrong, Buffet, Vito, Selemer, Yamaha, Bach, Jupiter, Leblanc, Holton, Olds, Conn, Ludwig and Pearl.
- Are used instruments O.K.? **YES,** depending on the playing condition. Sometimes a used instrument needs little or no servicing, while other times major servicing is needed to put the instrument in playing condition. For this reason, if at all possible, please let me check a used instrument before you purchase it. Many times what appears to be a real bargain is not!
- Is it O. K. to buy an instrument off the Internet? We do **NOT** recommend you purchase a beginning band instrument from any Internet source. Many times these instruments are in very poor condition, do not have a case, are missing parts, etc.
- Should I rent-to own or purchase outright? Each method has advantages; at our drop-in meeting, the music dealer representatives can explain both methods to you in detail. For most beginners, it's a good idea to rent to own, so that if your child changes his/her mind about what instrument they want to play, you can trade-in their instrument for another instrument and the money you have already paid is applied to the next instrument.

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Complete the following items no later than July 15th (tracks 1,2,3) and August 5th (track 4):

1. Go to the Holly Grove Band website (www.hollygrovebands.com), read the handbook and complete the information form. Students who complete band handbook by due date will receive 1 free practice record for quarter 1.
2. Place the Band Concert dates on your calendar. Inform Mr. Capps **now** of any conflicts.
3. Confirm that you have a smart music account that is active and you can access. If not, be sure to create an account at www.smartmusic.com (we will be using the new smart music this year). Please see the class codes for smart music below.
4. Plan to either fundraise this fall or send in \$40 for the music/maintenance donation. The donation will provide your child a smart music account to use at home and a band t-shirt.

6 th Grade Tracks 1&2 (3 rd Period)	6 th Grade Track 3&4 (4 th Period)	8 th Grade (All Tracks) (5 th Period)	7 th Grade (All Tracks) (8 th Period)
PEXDL-7NZ67	QZRPZ-3AWUT	TFJM6-NU73E	YR2AF-FJDWE

I firmly believe that ongoing communication between school and home is essential for your child's success in school, so if I can ever be of assistance, or if you simply wish to discuss your child's progress in band, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
 Adam Capps, Band Director
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www.hollygrovebands.com