

Flossmoor School District 161 5th-8th grade Students & Parents:

It's Time to Sign Up for Beginning Band! Come Out and Try the Instruments!

Flute, oboe, clarinet, trumpet, french horn, trombone, baritone and tuba

- An appointment sign-up sheet will be available in the foyer of Parker Junior High on Friday, August 31st and Tuesday, September 4th during the school day. You also have the option to sign up for a time when you arrive on sign-up night, **Tuesday, September 4th, from 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.** Plan to stay about 45 minutes after your appointment begins. This will allow us time to find an appropriate instrument for you child, to visit with the Quinlan and Fabish representative, and to order your child's band shirt. **Appointments will not be made by phone.**

Saxophone - Our limited number of saxophone students need to be musically strong students willing to participate in our jazz program. For this reason all students wishing to play the saxophone must start on the clarinet. Some of these students will be invited to switch to saxophone after the Winter Concert. Previous ownership of a saxophone is not a consideration in who is selected to switch.

Percussion - Our percussionists play a full range of mallet and auxiliary instruments, as well as the snare drum. Students with previous musical experience to tryout on the bells during Beginning Band Sign-up Night on September 5th. These students will be assessed on their rhythm, mallet reading skills, and knowledge of musical notation.

Percussion positions are limited, so all students who wish to tryout for percussion will also be asked to choose a woodwind or brass instrument. Students who are not chosen for the percussion section may participate in band on their second choice of instrument. All students trying out for percussion will be notified in a timely manner.

Quinlan and Fabish, a reputable music company that services our school, will be at Parker Junior High on Tuesday, September 4th, 2018 from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. They will present information to you regarding instrument rental and purchase. You are not obligated to rent or buy your instrument through this company. However, Quinlan and Fabish makes weekly service visits to our school, which makes repairs and maintenance very easy and convenient. You will have the opportunity to make financial arrangements to reserve an instrument, book, and music stand, which are required for your child's first lesson. **If you already have an instrument, please bring it with you so that we can check to see that it is in playable condition.** More information regarding the Flossmoor School District 161 Band Program will also be available at this time.

To ensure your child a place in our program, please be sure to attend. We are looking forward to meeting the new band students and parents!

Sincerely,
Ms. Reid
647-5476

Mrs. Hoefle
647-5474



A Few Frequently Asked Questions:

What's next?

Lessons begin at the grade schools on the following dates:

Flossmoor Hills – Mondays, starting Sept. 17th

Heather Hill – Thursdays, starting Sept. 20th

Western Avenue – Wednesdays, starting Sept. 26th

Serena Hills – Fridays, starting Sept. 21st

Full rehearsals at Parker on Mondays from 3:05-4:05 begin on Monday October 15th.

What is the commitment involved in having my child in band?

We ask for 90 minutes of practice a week outside of school lessons and rehearsals. Bus service is provided to get students to Monday rehearsals at Parker, but students must have prompt transportation home from Parker at 4:05 on Mondays. Beginning Band students are required to perform in a Winter Concert on December 11th and a Spring Concert on April 16th.

How much will it cost?

Instruments vary in price. The Quinlan and Fabish representative can help you with this. Again, beware of instruments found in non-music stores. They will sell you a band instrument for \$100, but it may not work for long, it will never play in tune, and it may not be repairable.

Students also need accessories (music stands, swabs for woodwinds, cork grease for reed instruments, handkerchiefs and cleaning rods for flutes, slide oil and tuning slide grease for trombones, valve oil and tuning slide grease for trumpets, horns, baritones and tubas) and a copy of Essential Elements Book One (including the CD and DVD) for their instrument. This can all be purchased through Quinlan and Fabish.

There is also a band fee of \$50 that is payable to the front office of your school. Also, required uniform polo shirts cost between \$10 – \$11, depending on size. Please purchase your child's shirt on recruiting night if possible. Payment must be separate from that of the school band fee.

Do I have to rent from Quinlan and Fabish, or can I get an instrument elsewhere?

We recommend Quinlan and Fabish because they are a reputable company that visits the school once a week. If you rent from them, all of your repairs are covered, and orders can be taken care of without a trip to the music store. Your child will also be provided a loaner instrument while his or her instrument is getting repaired.

If you choose to buy a used instrument, or to use a hand-me-down instrument, please bring it in so that Mrs. Hoefle or Mrs. Reid can inspect it for playability, or have it checked by a qualified repair person. Often the repair bills on a used instrument can be as much as \$200. It is very important that your child have a working instrument to play. Nothing is more frustrating than trying to learn to play an instrument that doesn't work.

A NEW INSTRUMENT FOR \$100 OR LESS IS A WASTE OF MONEY. DO NOT purchase instruments at stores that sell common household goods (or Amazon.com). These may look like a good deal, but they are poorly made of inferior materials. Most repairmen will refuse to fix an instrument of this type. If you are not sure, please call the band office before making your purchase, in order to avoid what is ultimately a rip-off. If the instrument brand is not listed below, please call us before purchasing. **YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR.** It is better to buy a good used instrument than a poor quality new one.

Recommended instrument brands are: all Yamaha and Selmer instruments, Gemeinhardt (flute), Buffet (clarinet), King, Conn and Bach (brass instruments), Holton (F horn), Fox (oboe), Ludwig and Pearl (percussion.)

