

Flossmoor School District 161

**5th Grade Students & Parents:
This is your chance to sign-up for
Beginning Band!**

**Tuesday, September 5th at PJHS
4:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

**Bring your iPad or Smartphone for
electronic registration if you can!**

INSTRUMENTS AVAILABLE

Flute, oboe, clarinet, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone and tuba require no try-out or previous musical experience.

Saxophone – Our limited number of saxophone students need to be musically strong students willing to participate in jazz band in 6th grade. For this reason, **students wishing to play the saxophone must start on the clarinet.** Recorded auditions (on the clarinet) for the saxophone positions will be accepted in December. Previous ownership of a saxophone is not a consideration in who is selected to switch.

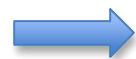
Percussion – Students who wish to play percussion **must try out for us on Sign-up Night.** Our percussionists play a full range of mallet and auxiliary instruments, as well as the snare drum. Students are invited to tryout on the bells or piano during Beginning Band Sign-up Night on September 5th. Interested 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 other instrument choice. All students trying out for percussion will be notified in as soon as possible so that rental can begin in time for the first lesson.

SIGNING UP

An appointment sign-up sheet will be available in the foyer of Parker Junior High (near the front office) Friday, September 1st and Tuesday, September 5th during the school day. You also have the option of signing up for the next available time when you arrive. Plan to stay about 45 minutes after your appointment begins. **Appointments will not be made by phone.**

You will need the following:

1. **A smartphone or district iPad, if you have one.** Electronic registration saves us a lot of time and paper. Paper registration will also be available.
2. **\$50 in cash, check or charge** for the district band fee.
3. **\$10 cash or separate check** for your child's band shirt order
4. The means to obtain a **book, music stand and accessories** (these can be ordered from Quinlan and Fabish at Sign-up Night)
5. A way to obtain an **instrument** for your child (see information on other side of this page).



OBTAINING INSTRUMENTS, BOOKS AND ACCESSORIES

Quinlan and Fabish (www.QandF.com), a reputable music company that services our school, will be present at our Beginning Band Sign-up Night. 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 provides quality instruments and 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, books, accessories 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.

Do not purchase an instrument at a Big Box (non-music) store. If you choose to purchase or rent an instrument elsewhere, please contact us for guidance. Reputable brands are: Yamaha, Selmer, Gemeinhardt (flute), Buffet (clarinet), King, Conn and Bach (brass instruments), Holton (F horn), Fox (oboe), Ludwig and Pearl (percussion.)

The School District has a few instruments available for use by students who qualify for free lunch. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Hoefle or Mrs. Reid as soon as possible.

ONCE YOUR CHILD IS SIGNED UP FOR BAND

1. Band students will receive one 30-minute pull-out group lesson per week on the designated day for their school:

Flossmoor Hills - Mondays, starting September 18th
Western Avenue – Wednesdays, starting September 20th
Heather Hill – Thursdays, starting September 21st
Serena Hills – Fridays, starting September 22nd

2. **Starting Monday, October 16th**, students will be bussed from the grade schools to Parker at the end of the day. The band will rehearse from 3:05 – 4:05 p.m. **Students need a prompt ride home from Parker at 4:05 on Mondays throughout the school year.**

3. The band will perform at two concerts: one in December, and another in April.

HELPING YOUR CHILD SUCCEED

Even if you have no musical background yourself, you can still help your child succeed in instrumental music. **One of the first things you can do is help your child learn to read the first five notes, found at the top of page 6 in the book.**

Each week your child should mark the book each time an exercise is practiced, and you should sign the book before each lesson.

Students also need a music stand at home, good lighting, and positive feedback. The first sounds you hear might not sound musical to you, but give it time, insist on consistent practice, remain positive, **listen for improvement**, and soon your child will be making music!

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