

# Beginner Band Parent Meeting Notes

- Welcome to the Kelly Lane Middle School Band Program. We are excited about sharing this musical journey with your child.
- **Time Line**
  - Do not allow your young musician to assemble or play their instrument before school begins (this excludes percussionists taking lessons)
  - They can damage the instrument if they do not know how to put it together properly
  - They can develop bad habits on the instrument
- **Accessories** (Items they should have by the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of school)
  - Band Book: Essential Elements 2000 (for their instrument)
  - Band Book: Warm Ups and Beyond (for their instrument)
  - Music Stand (for home practice)
  - Metronome (for home practice and to record assignments) A **metronome** is a device that produces a regulated, audible pulse...usually used to establish a steady tempo
  - Name Tag for instrument case
  - Cleaning Supplies... these will be different for each instrument, please refer to your 'supply list'
  - Digital Recorder or other means to record performance (you can record on the computer and email it or burn it to a CD, use a digital voice recorder, some students even used their cell phone)
- **KLMS Band Store**
  - You can purchase all of the accessories from the band
  - Most supplies are on hand at all times, but some items might have to be ordered
  - You can use cash or check (we do not have a method to use credit cards yet)
- **Class Requirements**
  - Band meets every day for approximately 50 minutes
  - Instruments are scheduled together (for example-all flutes are in the same class period)
  - There will be 3 periods of beginner band classes
  - Students are expected to have their instrument, all supplies, music binder, method books and a pencil at every rehearsal
  - Students should have a cooperative attitude
  - Students should participate fully in rehearsal
  - Students can be successful with as little as 20 minutes practice time 5 days a week
  - Students must attend the after school practices and the evening concerts (there are only 6 after school practices, two evening concerts, and a spring trip)
  - WE GUARANTEE SUCCESS IF STUDENTS FOLLOW OUR DIRECTIONS! ☺
- **Acquiring an Instrument**
  - Buying an instrument is like buying a car
    - You typically get what you pay for in new instruments...however, there are bargains out there if you are patient.
    - Unusually inexpensive instruments typically have poor quality finishes and solders/bracing, poor intonation, require adjustments more often and the repair shops sometimes can't get parts to service them...some might consider these to be "disposable" instruments
    - There are Cadillacs and there are Fords/Chevys---luxury models with all the "bells and whistles" and basic transportation (and everything in between)—Band instruments are just like this
    - Our recommended list contains instruments that are considered "midline"...neither the most expensive nor the cheapest. This instrument could be used through middle school and high school. However, a better instrument might be needed later depending on the skill of the student and how rapidly they progress.
    - You will lose a percentage of the resale value as soon as you leave the store--just like a car purchase
    - If you arm yourself with how much the instrument should cost before you enter one of the local music stores, you have more bargaining power (research the brands and model numbers online)

- Used Instruments
  - There is nothing wrong with having a used instrument as long as it is in good working order...kids can easily fall behind at the beginning if their instrument is broken and the rest of the class is moving on and it can be tough to catch up
  - Sometimes used instruments cost more to overhaul than just to buy a new instrument
  - Most local stores will give free repair estimates
  - Allow plenty of time for any needed repairs...summer is very busy for repair shops
  - Take the instrument in for repairs early in the summer so that it will be ready when school starts
  - A new case can sometimes help to make a used instrument seem nicer and kids are usually more proud of things that look nice. Many kinds are available locally or online at a very reasonable price...just be sure that it fits your brand of instrument
- **Buying –vs- Renting**
  - Renting
    - You know your child...If they tend to move from activity to activity, then you might want to rent first
    - You can usually get the process started with a small down payment and that will reserve the instrument...your actual rental payments usually start at the beginning of school
    - Renting first gives you and your child the opportunity to ‘try band’ first before becoming too invested financially
    - The music stores will typically repair and keep the instrument in playing condition (free for normal wear and tear) while you are renting
    - Don’t rent much longer than December or January for the best financial deal (you could have almost paid 30-50 percent of a used instrument by that point--or more!)
  - Buying
    - It is usually cheaper to pay in full, rather than financing
    - Some online dealers have financing options--think wholesale vs. retail
    - Sometimes ‘no tax’ (if out of state) depending on the vendor
    - Sometimes ‘no shipping fees’ depending on the vendor
    - If you buy an instrument at a wholesale price, you typically can sell later without losing too much money...you are likely to lose money on an instrument that you paid full retail price when you try to sell again....(just like a new car purchase)
  - Mail Order/Online Sales
    - Some reputable online dealers that we have experience with are listed below
    - I recommend that you ask the wholesale companies to send you a catalogue because this gives you a hard copy of the financing information, shipping, and contact details with which to make comparisons
    - Be sure that you know return policies if the instrument is not working properly or damaged...this is one big advantage of buying locally
    - Craig’s list and eBay can work if you know what to look for...the danger is always that the instrument might be misrepresented and then you might have trouble returning it
  - School Owned Instruments
    - We have a limited number of school owned instruments that are available for students that have financial need (flutes, clarinets, trumpets, trombones)...please contact a band director as soon as possible because availability is limited
    - We typically provide the most expensive instruments (oboe, bassoon, horn, euphonium, tuba) Students would be expected to provide a mouthpiece and cleaning supplies...they would also be expected to pay a fee of \$30.00 per semester per instrument to help offset the normal maintenance costs of the instruments
    - Depending on enrollment, we are able to provide a "take home" instrument that stays at home so kids don't have to transport the largest instruments home each day....(tuba, horn and euphonium for example)

- Percussion
  - Beginning percussionists typically provide a snare drum, practice pad, bell kit, and sticks and mallets that are used both at home and at school in various combinations depending on the instruction at the time...we will work with the students to put names on everything
  - The school will provide all the other equipment--large and small (timpani, marimba, chimes, bass drum...etc. as well as tambourines, triangles, cymbals, and most outdoor equipment)
  - We strongly recommend that students take private lessons on percussion because of the wide variety of demands
  - Percussionists will also pay a \$30.00 per semester fee to help cover the cost of basic maintenance...replacing drum heads, cymbal straps, large mallets etc...
- **Extras**
  - Warranties
    - Some stores will include a warranty at no additional cost...typically this includes basic repairs and adjustments...this can be very helpful on instruments like flute and clarinet that usually require more adjustments
    - If all other points are equal, this might be an option that a store could offer to encourage you to do business there
    - Most local stores have some room to bargain with you depending on how late in the summer it is and the size of their inventory
  - Accessories
    - Some stores will include most cleaning supplies, the stand, method books, and the required mouthpiece at no additional cost...other stores might charge you for each item and some will be a combination of both of these
    - Most online vendors will charge additional for all accessories
    - You can buy all accessories from our KLMS Band store at online prices too, so don't let that prevent you from getting the best deal for your instrument in one place and the accessories from some other place if that works for you

## ● Local Vendors

- Sam Bass, 246-9845 (Kent/Kyle-contact people) ( [www.sambassmusic.com](http://www.sambassmusic.com) )
- Strait Music, 918-3743 (Shawn-contact person) ( [www.straitmusic.com](http://www.straitmusic.com) )
- Better Than New, 388-7774 ( [www.betterthannewbandrepair.net](http://www.betterthannewbandrepair.net) )
- Hillje Music: (254) 681-5787 ( <http://www.hilljemusic.com> )

## ● Other Vendors

- Woodwind and Brasswind, 1-800-346-4448 ( [www.wwbw.com](http://www.wwbw.com) )
- Quality Brass ( <http://quality-brass.com> )
- Wichita Band Instruments, 1-800-835-3006 ( [www.wichitaband.com](http://www.wichitaband.com) )
- Interstate Music, 1-800-982-2263 ( [www.interstatemusic.com](http://www.interstatemusic.com) )
- NEMC (National Educational Music Company), 1-800-526-4593 ( [www.nemc.com](http://www.nemc.com) )