



Holly Grove Middle School Bands
Director Adam Capps
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(919)567-4177 ext. 20470

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 they are comfortable, have fun and learn a great deal.

Listed below are the policies that affect your class specifically. All other important band information is in the [band handbook](#).

Band Handbook:

Please read the band handbook for policies and important information and fill out the online [contract](#). The handbook can be found homepage our webpage at hollygrovebands.com

Grading: See [band handbook](#)

Picking an instrument: 6th grade students should see [this document](#) and watch videos for each instrument

Supplies needed for class: Due July 14 (Tracks 1, 2 & 3) and August 4 (Track 4)

Beginning Band–Instrument Specific [Essential Elements Interactive Book 1](#)

- Instrument with name tag.
- Instrument accessories (reeds, valve oil, mallets, etc.) please oil valves at home, minimal use during the day.
- Band Book [Method book](#)
- Pencils 2 (mechanical are great, they are always sharpened)
- Make Music Account
- [Music Stand](#) for home

****All instrument related items (instrument, accessories, and band book) will be discussed at the virtual rental meeting. Parents do not need to secure any of these items until after the meeting****

Virtual Rental meetings @ 5pm: **Thursday July 10** (Tracks 1, 2 & 3) and **Thursday July 31** (Track 4)

[Tracks 1, 2 & 3](#)
[Instrument Rental](#)
[Virtual Link](#) →
Thursday, July 10 5pm



[Track 4](#)
[Instrument Rental](#)
[Virtual Link](#) →
Thursday, July 31 5pm



Concert Dates:

Mark these dates on your calendar now so there will not be any conflicts.

December 11 - Winter Concert at Holly Springs High School (All Bands, All Tracks)

May 12, 2026 - Spring Concert at Fuquay Varina High School (All Bands, All Tracks)

Concert Dress: White Dress Shirt/Top, Black Dress Pants, Black Dress Shoes



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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? We will have a local music dealer (Music and Arts) that will provide a virtual rental meeting on **July 10 (Tracks 1, 2, 3)** and **July 31 (Track 4)**. This company provides the brands that I recommend. You are certainly welcome to acquire an instrument from another company/source; however, please be sure to check with Mr. Capps before purchasing. Not all instruments are created equal and we want to ensure that your child has an instrument they can be successful on.
- 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, Selmer, 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 virtual 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.

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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