

Congratulations!

Your student has tested successfully and they have been accepted to play an instrument in the James Valley 5th Grade Band!

Individually, each student tried three or more instruments in the testing process.

After looking at your student's strengths, instrumentation of the group, and balance of a 7-12 Band, the following instrument was chosen for your student:

Name: _____ **Instrument:** Percussion

To practice at home, **percussionists are required to have a bell set and a snare drum or drum pad**. Below are options for purchasing/renting your percussion instruments. If you need additional help, please call or email me.

- JVC has drum pads and bell sets that are available for students to borrow from the school.
or
- Purchasing an instrument – Snare Drum or Practice Pad & Bell Kit
 - Taylor Music in Aberdeen, SD is a nationally known music store to purchase and/or rent an instrument. Go to startband.com
 - They have competitive prices, reputable brands, and options for monthly payment plans.
 - They have “beginner returned” instruments. (used for a few months by a student and then returned to the store – price is less than a new instrument)
 - They have “overhauled” instruments. (used, but completely fixed to be made new again – price is less than a new instrument)
 - They have 1-day shipping to Huron.
 - Please see the enclosed form for more information.
 - Other music stores who have instrument rental programs are:
 - Poppler Music – Sioux Falls, SD – (605)336-6332 or 1-800-568-2508
 - Eckroth Music – Bismarck, ND - 1-800-437-1762 or Fargo, ND - 1-800-525-9232
 - Instrument Outfitters – online store – www.instrumentoutfitters.com
 - Woodwind & Brasswind – online & phone orders – www.wwbw.com –
- Drumsticks & Mallets
 - Drumsticks are easy to find at stores and are very inexpensive. There are also many different kinds! A good brand of drum sticks for beginners is Vic Firth. We recommend a size **2B** or **5B** drumstick.
 - When you purchase a bell set, mallets are typically included. However, please check to see if you need to purchase them separately.
- Books
 - *Alfred Drum Method Book 1* and *Essential Elements Book 1*. Students may check out lesson books from JVC or purchase their own. The cost is around \$10 and can be ordered at a music store or online.
- Lessons

Students that are in band will have one 15-minute lesson per week. These lessons take place during recess. Band lessons will begin the second week of school. Students will bring their method book to each lesson. When a student has learned their first 5 notes, they will be invited to practice with the Elementary 5th/6th Band that meets twice a week.

All the students have been wonderful to work with during this time. They have been respectful and very willing to try whatever was asked of them! I have enjoyed meeting your students, and I'm looking forward to working with them this coming year. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Musically Your,

Rachel Halsey
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