

What I Need to Know About 5th Grade Band!

As a 5th grader next year, your student has the opportunity to sign up to play in the Pleasant Plains beginning band! This is a great chance to learn how to play an instrument, read music, and have fun performing with your friends. No previous music experience is necessary. We hope you will join us!

For any questions about band, please contact Mrs. Katie Hill: khill@ppcusd8.org

Important Dates to Remember

❖ **Friday, August 29th- Last day to sign up for band!**

Send an email to Mrs. Hill (khill@ppcusd8.org) by this date to have your student's name added to the band class roster. Signing up before summer will ensure you get the most up-to-date information before school starts. After this date, no students may be added or removed from the roster until second semester.

❖ **Thursday, September 4th- Instrument Try-Out and Rental Night**

Students will try out their top three instrument choices with Mrs. Hill to decide what they want to play. The Music Shoppe will also be present to set up rental agreements that night. A sign-up sheet will be sent out at the start of next school year for families to pick a time to try out the instruments.

If you are unable to make it that night, please email Mrs. Hill and she will schedule a time for your student to try out the instruments during school. You can then contact The Music Shoppe on your own to set up a rental agreement.

❖ **Week of September 8th- First Lesson!**

Students need to have an instrument, lesson book, and supplies ready for their first lesson this week. A lesson schedule will be sent home with a specific day and time your student will need to bring their instrument to school.

If you rent an instrument through The Music Shoppe, it will be delivered to the school this week.

Frequently Asked Questions

What instruments can 5th graders choose from?

Flute, oboe, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone/euphonium, and percussion (snare drum AND bells together).

For videos on each instrument, visit the [Be Part of the Band website](#).

How will my student decide what instrument to play?

Students will have the opportunity to try out their top three instrument choices with Mrs. Hill at the Instrument Try-Out Night on September 4th. If you cannot make it that night, Mrs. Hill will schedule a time to try out the instruments during school. Mrs. Hill will make a recommendation of what she thinks will be the best choice but the decision is ultimately up to the student and their family.

What if my student wants to switch instruments during the school year?

Students are expected to stick with their original instrument choice unless there is a serious issue (such as not being able to produce a sound on the instrument after considerable effort). We will try to identify these issues within the first few weeks of lessons. Getting “bored” with an instrument will NOT be grounds for switching. Remember, every time a student changes instruments, they become a beginner all over again and have to learn a new set of skills. We want to avoid this as much as possible.

What if my student wants to quit?

Since band is a graded class, students will not be able to remove it from their schedule until the end of a semester. Rosters will be finalized after the first two weeks of each semester.

How will I get an instrument for my student?

Pleasant Plains is proud to partner with The Music Shoppe to provide our students with quality instruments and supplies. Click the links below for information on instrument rentals. **Please do not rent an instrument until after your student tries them out with Mrs. Hill!**

[The Music Shoppe Rental Brochure](#)

[Set Up an Online Rental](#)

What if I don't want to rent from The Music Shoppe?

You are welcome to get an instrument wherever is comfortable for your family. Just make sure it is a quality instrument in good playing condition!

If you are shopping online, beware of deals that seem too good to be true. You'll usually end up spending more money repairing or replacing bargain instruments that are poorly made and your student will struggle with an instrument that doesn't cooperate. The brands listed below have a good reputation for their quality (even if they are used!) and are usually a worthwhile investment. If you find something online, send Mrs. Hill a link and she will give you an honest opinion!

Instrument	Recommended Brands
Flute	Yamaha, Gemeinhardt, Emerson
Oboe	Yamaha, Fox, Selmer
Clarinet	Yamaha, Buffet, Selmer, Bundy
Alto Saxophone	Yamaha, Selmer
Trumpet	Yamaha, Bach, Holton, Getzen, Besson, Schilke
French Horn	Yamaha, Conn, Holton
Trombone	Yamaha, Bach
Baritone	Yamaha, Bach, Besson, Blessing
Percussion (5" deep snare drum and bells)	Yamaha, Pearl, Ludwig

If your student is going to use a family-owned instrument that hasn't been played in a while, it would be a good idea to take it to The Music Shoppe and have it "tuned up" by a repair technician first.

What if I can't afford an instrument?

Good quality instruments are an investment that may not be comfortable for all families. If financial concerns arise, please contact Mrs. Hill. The school owns a small number of instruments that can be loaned out to students in need. There is a limited variety and they will be shared with families on a first come, first serve basis. *Please reserve this option for families who truly need it.*

What books and supplies will my student need in addition to their instrument?

A list of the supplies your student will need can be found below. Supplies can be purchased at The Music Shoppe in Springfield or from their [online store](#). If financial concerns arise, please contact Mrs. Hill. We will work together to make sure students have the supplies they need.

Instrument	Supplies
Flute	<i>Essential Elements for Band</i> lesson book Name Tag Cleaning rod (should come in their case) Cleaning cloth (a handkerchief or square of cotton fabric will work)
Oboe	<i>Essential Elements for Band</i> lesson book Name Tag Reeds (at least 2, medium-soft strength) Music Shoppe Reed Club Cleaning swab Cork grease
Clarinet Alto Saxophone	<i>Essential Elements for Band</i> lesson book Name Tag Reeds (at least 2, strength 2) Music Shoppe Reed Club Cleaning swab Cork grease
Trumpet Baritone	<i>Essential Elements for Band</i> lesson book Name Tag Valve oil Slide grease
French Horn	<i>Essential Elements for Band</i> lesson book Name Tag Rotary valve oil Slide grease
Trombone	<i>Essential Elements for Band</i> lesson book Name Tag Slide grease Slide cream Small spray bottle (look in Target's travel supply section)
Percussion	<i>Essential Elements for Band</i> lesson book Name Tag Snare drum sticks with wooden bead (size 5A) Bell mallets with soft plastic bead (sticks and mallets should come with case)

When will band class meet during the school day?

Students will meet in small group lessons once a week with students who play similar instruments. These lessons will take place during PE, WIN, or PACE. A schedule will be sent out at the start of the school year.

Full band rehearsals with all band students will take place on Fridays during WIN. There are no after school rehearsals for 5th grade band.

When will the concerts be?

We will have a winter concert in December and a spring concert in May. Official dates and times will be announced at the beginning of the school year.

How will my student be graded?

Band is a graded curricular class. Assignments will be made up of several different components including:

- Practice logs
- Recording assignments
- Attending and bringing their instrument to each lesson
- Concert attendance

How often should my student be practicing at home?

Students will be assigned a weekly practice log that must be signed by their parents for a grade. They will be expected to practice a total of 50 minutes each week. It is recommended they do a few minutes each day to help build muscle memory and retain music reading skills between lessons. 10-15 minutes of practicing 4-5 days a week is better than 50 minutes all in one day!

For any additional questions, please contact Mrs. Hill at khill@ppcusd8.org.