

The Arts Based School

August 2025

Dear Parents of ABS Rising 6th Graders:

One of the many exciting changes awaiting your student this year at The Arts Based School is that all 6th graders at The Arts Based School participate in “heterogeneous” band, in which an array of instruments play together. Students may choose one of the following instruments: flute, trumpet, clarinet, trombone, or percussion. (Students who are interested in other band instruments would still begin with one of the five listed. Sax begins with clarinet, horn begins with trumpet, oboe with clarinet.)

Choose Your Instrument

Here is a link to an [Instrument Choice Survey](#) which must be completed no later than August 8, 2025. Students are free to choose the instrument they prefer, but the survey will help with planning.

Band will begin the second full week of school. Please be sure your child brings their instrument on band day! Your classroom teacher will communicate the scheduled band days for your student.

Instrument Rental: The cost of rental is typically \$25 or \$30 monthly. To rent an instrument, ABS recommends all of the following rental companies, which offer competitive prices and various deals including rental payments being counted toward purchase, if you decide to keep the instrument. You should also ask whether repairs or upkeep are included in the rental fee.

The Band Company, Kernersville: Phone your order in at (336) 993-7436.

Moore Music in Greensboro

Separk Music, Winston-Salem: Visit their [website](#) to rent, or call (336) 723-0784

Students should purchase a “wire” music stand for home practice, a care kit, and the **book/CD *Essential Elements***, specific for their instrument. Clarinetists will also need a swab, cork grease, and reeds for a Bb clarinet, at 2.5 strength. Here is a [LINK](#) to the reeds we recommend. Flutists will need a swab. Trumpet players will need valve oil. Trombones may wish to purchase slide cream.

Students will receive rental assistance or may borrow a school-owned instrument if their *Family Income Survey* indicates that they qualify for free or reduced lunch. (You must fill out the form every year.) Note that only the above five instruments are available through the assistance plan.

Sincerely,

Chris Reichmeier, 5th-8th Music Teacher
The Arts Based School
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