

August 28, 2019

Dear Fifth Grade Band Parents,

Welcome back to school! This letter is for Fifth Graders that selected the option of studying a band instrument this year for their music instruction last year at the end of Grade Four. A reminder that all students received their first choice of instruments.

Students will have instruction on their instruments at two different times: during their scheduled music classes during the school day and on Tuesdays *before* school from 7:45-8:20am. These lessons are very important and mandatory as this is when students will receive instruction on their specific instrument. The classes they will attend during their regularly scheduled music time, during the school day, are guided practice sessions and band rehearsals in groups of mixed instruments. The mixed group structure of these lessons does not permit me to give in depth instrument specific instruction during this time, making regular and on time attendance at the before school lessons very important. The before school lessons will potentially begin on Tuesday, September 24th but please look for a further communications on this before sending students in before school.

Go to Music & Arts website www.musicarts.com to order your instrument if you need one. You are renting the instrument from Music & Arts not the North Hampton School. Please have them deliver the instrument to the school not your home. Students will also need to purchase a method book "The Standard of Excellence" by Bruce Pearson. You can do this at the same time as when you are ordering the instrument. The accessories and music stands, etc. are optional. If students already have an instrument they still will just need to purchase the method book.

You should complete the online order by Monday September 16th to insure that the instrument arrives in time as it takes the order a few days to process. Music & Arts will deliver the instruments to the school and they will be distributed during your child's first before school band class.

Please note that the instruments that you are renting are in "like new" condition, not brand new. After the trial rental period ends you can ask for a brand new instrument. *I also have instruments that can be loaned on a scholarship basis if the rental fees would pose a financial challenge for your family.* I strongly suggest that you take advantage of the introductory rental offer before purchasing an instrument. This will allow you to make sure your child likes and will stay with the instrument they have chosen. Please also elect to have the LDW coverage on the instrument, as it will pay for repairs to the instrument. Without the LDW you will be responsible for the cost of the instrument and repairs to it. One trip to the repair shop can cost more than the insurance does for 3 or 4 years!

Students will need to stay with their choice of instrument until January 31, 2020 after which they may choose to stop playing or continue. If you already own an instrument, please be sure it is in good working condition and you will only need to purchase a lesson book. If you choose to purchase an instrument from a music store please be sure it is of good quality. Beware prices that seem too good to be true- they probably are! Inexpensive instruments from big box stores or large online retailers are potentially not of the quality that is required for the NHS Band. I have a list of good quality student model instrument brands available upon request. I will also look at any instrument for you to ascertain its quality and condition.

Students should plan to practice 5 nights a week for 15-20 minutes. This is better for their development than an hour and a half on the weekends.

Please do not hesitate to call me if you have questions at 964-5501 or e-mail at dsinger@sau21.org. I look forward to working with your child and to an exciting year!

Sincerely,
Daniel P. Singer
NHS Band Director

Online Instrument Rental Instructions

Step 1. Go to www.musicarts.com. Click on rental from the menu bar on the page. Put in the zip code for North Hampton. From the right hand side of the page select “rentals.” Enter the correct zip code and select North Hampton School and then the correct grade level.

Step 2. Select your instrument from the pictures. Each instrument has an introductory trial rate for a 3-month rental period after which payments are made monthly. PLEASE make sure the LDW insurance is selected. This will protect you if the instrument gets broken.

****PLEASE select deliver to my school fall delivery.** This will make things go much smoother and they will charge you \$10.00 extra for home delivery. The instruments will arrive on September 18th and be distributed in your child’s first before school lesson on 9/25/17.

Step 3 Accessories:

-The only accessory you need to purchase is the lesson book the “Standard of Excellence Book 1.”

Step 4 Pay and you are all set.

Step 5. Be sure to fill out all required information.