

August 24, 2020



Dear Band Family,

I'm so excited that you have chosen to become a part of the band program at Woodmont Middle School! Parents and students often have questions at the beginning of this journey, and I am here to serve as your guide throughout the process.

Choosing an Instrument

Recommendations for instrument assignments are based primarily on the results of mouthpiece testing, as well as the instrumentation needs of the ensemble and each student's individual preference. In some cases, students' preferences and test results align perfectly, and in other cases they are totally different!

I will do my best to ensure that everyone is placed on an instrument with which they'll find success.

In my experience, students who play the instrument recommended for them enjoy band and find more success than those who disregard the mouthpiece test results.

My goal is to lead every student to find a love for music, and it all starts with selecting the right instrument!

"What is mouthpiece testing?"

During the first month of school, your student will "try out" each instrument in the band and will receive a score based on their initial aptitude for each instrument.

Physical and facial characteristics are extremely important to consider. For example, someone with thin lips may find that they can naturally make a sound on the trumpet, but may have trouble making a sound on a larger mouthpiece, such as tuba.

Some people are simply meant to play certain instruments! It's our job to find the best physical match for each unique student.



Acquiring Your Instrument

Due to COVID-19, the process for getting instruments will look much different this year. Safety is my #1 priority, which will surely cause the process to take longer than usual. Please be patient with me, and I will do my best to keep you updated through frequent communication.

AFTER your student and I have “locked in” their instrument assignment, there are 3 ways you can get an instrument:

- **Music Store (highly recommended!)** – I’ll send links for 2 different local music stores. You can fill out their paperwork online and the music store will deliver your child’s instrument directly to the school!
- **School Rental** – I have a limited amount of instruments that can be rented directly from the school. The price is lower, but in many cases the instruments are also a lower quality than what you would get from the store. Please contact me directly if you would like to discuss this option.
- **Independent Purchase** – If you plan to pursue this option, please communicate with me first. There are some brands out there that are listed at attractively low prices, but they are low-quality and will break constantly. **Please let me help you ensure that you buy an instrument that will set your student up for success.** You can find recommended brands and mouthpieces on my website, woodmontmiddleband.weebly.com.

Basically, there’s nothing you need to do yet.

Typically, I do not require students to have instruments until the end of September.

I will send several updates between now and then!

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. I understand that this is a large undertaking, and I am here to help in any way that I can. The only bad question is one left unasked! 😊

I can’t wait to start making music together!

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