

# Bert Lynn Middle School Beginning Band Students

## First Day with instruments – Monday, September 25

September, 2017

Dear Beginning Band Parents and Students,

You have chosen an instrument and I have approved it for you, so now it's time to go get an instrument. Let me offer you some advice:

**1. Instrument Brands:** Stick with well-known and time-tested instrument brands that have a history of working well and lasting a very long time. Beware of “store” brands, off brands, etc. A good instrument will last a lifetime! Best brands to choose from: Yamaha, Bach, LeBlanc, Armstrong, Selmer, Bundy, Gemeinhart, Buffet, King, Conn, Eastman, Jupiter.

**2. Music Stores:** Did you know you can get instruments at Costco, Amazon, or other discount retailers? The instruments sold there are very inexpensive and made of a lower quality metal and parts. They are hard to play, do not play in tune, and often cannot be fixed if something goes wrong with them. Stick to stores that only rent or sell the quality instruments seen above.

The following stores are ones that I have worked well with and recommend to get your instruments:

**Allegro Music: (310) 643-9391 2703 Manhattan Beach Blvd. Redondo Beach CA 90501**

**Amuse Music: (310) 377-7838 43C Peninsula Center, Rolling Hills, CA 90274**

**Music & Arts at Anaheim Band Instruments: (800) 540-4224 504 S. State College, Anaheim, CA 92806**

[www.abimusic.com](http://www.abimusic.com)

**Music & Arts at Guitar Center South Bay: 310-542-9444 4525 Artesia Blvd, Lawndale, CA 90260**

**Singer Music: (626) 917-9300 1217 N. Hacienda Blvd. La Puente, CA 91744 [www.singermusic.com](http://www.singermusic.com)**

**Sunset Learning Studio (310) 749-7099 612 Meyer Land #9B, Redondo Beach, CA 90278**

**\*\* Take Entradero north of 190<sup>th</sup>! See flyer**

**\*\* Free lesson with rental!**

*\*\*I know some are a drive, but worth it in quality and price!*

**3. Renting vs. Buying:** I always recommend renting first, because you never know what your middle schooler will decide in the future. However, if you know that they're going to stick with band, go ahead and consider purchasing. And there's nothing wrong with getting a used instrument (all of these stores sell them). As long as it's been checked by a repair-person, it will be fine and last just as long as a new one.

**4. Book:** We will be using “Making Music Matter” this year, which is a new book for us. Books will be provided by the school and will be treated as a textbook.

**5. Required Supplies for each instrument:** Each instrument needs specific supplies that you are required to have. If you are renting/purchasing an instrument from a store, most of these should come with the instrument. If you are borrowing a school-owned instrument, please make sure you have the correct supplies on the first day. It is also recommended that all students have a music stand for home practice. You can purchase a wire folding stand for not a lot of money for home use.

**Flutes** – Cleaning rod (comes with the flute), cleaning cloth (usually a handkerchief type)

**Oboes/Clarinets/Saxophones/Bassoon** – reeds (strength 2 ½ or higher), cork grease, cleaning cloth or “pad saver”. \*\*Please note reeds are specific to the particular instrument.

**All Brass** – Valve Oil (Trumpet, Baritone, Tuba only), Rotor Oil (French Horns), Slide Oil (Trombones), slide grease (For all brass tuning slides), towel\*\*

\*\*All brass players must always have a towel with their instrument at all times (like a hand towel) to catch condensation water that comes out of the instrument. We cannot dump this on our school floors, as I'm sure you wouldn't want them dumping it on your floors at home!

**Percussion** - Please rent or purchase a **bell set** for home practice (includes a small orchestra bells set and snare drum OR practice drum pad) and medium size drumsticks. I personally like Vic Firth SD1 drumsticks

Please contact me if you have questions. Students will need to have instruments the first day of band. Thank you once again for all of your support of the program and of your student as they start their band career!!!

Musically Yours,  
Mrs. Banim  
[banim.catherine@tusd.org](mailto:banim.catherine@tusd.org)