



Flossmoor School District 161 Beginning Band: Answers to Important Questions

When do the students get their instruments?

Quinlan and Fabish will deliver the instruments to the schools, and the students will get their instruments at the first lesson. The students need to be instructed on assembly and basic sound production before they take the instruments home. Otherwise, bad habits can form and damage can be done to the instrument.

The Essential Elements 2000 Book that your child needs includes a CD and a DVD. After the first lesson please watch the beginning of the DVD with your child, as it will explain assembly, care, and maintenance procedures.

When do lessons start?

Lessons will start **during the week of September 19th**. The day of your child's lesson will depend on how the schedule is arranged, and which school your child attends. Your child will be notified of his or her lesson day when the schedule is finalized. Each student will get one half-hour group lesson a week.

When does full band start?

Rehearsals will be held at Parker every Monday from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Our first full band rehearsal will be held on **Monday, October 17th**. Students from the grade schools will be bussed to Parker. **ALL STUDENTS NEED RIDES HOME FROM PARKER PROMPTLY AT 4:30 P.M. ON MONDAYS.** Students without prompt transportation may not be permitted to continue in the program.

What instruments will be taught?

The flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, baritone, tuba and percussion. Oboe and horn are available to those who may be willing to get private lessons outside of the school program (in addition to the lessons given in school.)

Who will get to play the saxophone?

All students who are interested in playing the saxophone will start on the clarinet. Before the end of first semester we will ask what clarinet players are interested in playing the saxophone permanently, and who are interested in participating in our jazz program, which meets after school once a week. We will decide who gets to switch based on work ethic, ability on clarinet, attitude, and desire. Only those chosen will get to play the saxophone. Current ownership of a saxophone does not determine who gets to switch.

My child is interested in playing the drums. How do you choose who gets to play drums?

Most often parents think their child will play the drum set if they qualify for the percussion section. The drum set is a skill usually taught outside of school with a private instructor. In the band world, we have "percussionists". A percussion player will be skilled at many different percussion instruments. One of those instruments is the bells, which is similar to a piano keyboard. Another is the concert snare drum.

Percussion positions are limited, so all students who wish to tryout for percussion will be asked to tryout on the bells, which are similar to the piano. These tryouts are held during the general recruiting night. Students interested in percussion will also be asked to choose a woodwind or brass instrument as a second choice. Those who are not selected for the limited number of percussion positions may participate in band on their second choice instrument.

What is the commitment involved in having my child in band?

We ask for 90 minutes of practice a week outside of school lessons and rehearsals. Bus service is provided to get students to Monday rehearsals at Parker, but **students must have prompt transportation home from Parker at 4:30 on Mondays.** Beginning Band students are required to perform in a Winter Concert on December 6th and a Spring Concert on April 24th. They will also attend one field trip during a school day.

Do I need to make the decision on recruiting night?

It is best if you do, so that we can keep track of our numbers, and so that you can take care of rental while the representative from Quinlan and Fabish is present. However, if you are unable to decide this evening, please fill out a card and inform us of your situation. Students need to have their instruments, books, and music stands in time for the first lesson (during the week of September 19th), so there is not a lot of time to shop.

Do I have to rent from Quinlan and Fabish, or can I get an instrument elsewhere?

We recommend Quinlan and Fabish because they are a reputable company that visits the school once a week. If you rent from them, all of your repairs are covered, and orders can be taken care of without a trip to the music store. Your child will also be provided a loaner instrument while his or her instrument is getting repaired.

If you choose to buy a used instrument, or to use a hand-me-down instrument, please bring it in so that Mrs. Hoefle or Ms. Panner can inspect it for playability, or have it checked by a qualified repair person. Often the repair bills on a used instrument can be as much as \$200. It is very important that your child have a working instrument to play. Nothing is more frustrating than trying to learn to play an instrument that doesn't work.

DO NOT purchase instruments at stores that sell common household goods. These may look like a deal, but they are poorly made of inferior materials. Most repairmen will refuse to fix an instrument of this type. If you are not sure, please call the band office before making your purchase, in order to avoid what is ultimately a rip-off. If the instrument brand is not listed below, please call us before purchasing. **YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR.**

Recommended instrument brands are: all Yamaha and Selmer instruments, Gemeinhardt (flute), Buffet (clarinet), King, Conn and Bach (brass instruments), Holton (F horn), Fox (oboe), Ludwig and Pearl (percussion.)

How much will it cost?

Instruments vary in price. The Quinlan and Fabish representative can help you with this. Again, beware of instruments found in non-music stores. They will sell you a band instrument for \$100, but it may not work for long, it will never play in tune, and it may not be repairable.

Students also need accessories (music stands, swabs for woodwinds, cork grease for reed instruments, handkerchiefs and cleaning rods for flutes, slide oil and tuning slide grease for trombones, valve oil and tuning slide grease for trumpets, horns, baritones and tubas) and a copy of Essential Elements Book One (including the CD and DVD) for their instrument. This can all be purchased through Quinlan and Fabish.

There is also a band fee of \$50 that is payable to the front office of your school. Also, required uniform polo shirts cost between \$10 – \$11, depending on size. Please purchase your child's shirt on recruiting night if possible.

How can I help my child succeed?

Private lessons outside of the school program are always a great way to further your child's progress, but even if you have no musical background yourself, you can still help your child succeed in instrumental music. The CD and DVD included in the book have audio examples of all the pieces in the book, as well as basic instruction on how to play the instrument.

Students also need a music stand at home, good lighting, and positive feedback. Each week your child should fill out his or her practice journal to be initialed by you before the lesson day each week.

The first sounds you hear might not sound musical to you, but give it time, insist on consistent practice, remain positive, and soon your child will be making music!

**Students who practice are successful.
Students who are successful enjoy band!**