

Forms to be passed out to beginning band students this week ( 9/12/11):

Dear Parents of: \_\_\_\_\_

Your child has decided to play the \_\_\_\_\_

Our first classes with instruments will begin the week of September 19, 2011. Your child will need to acquire his or her instrument and supplies before this date. Port Huron Music Center has a rental program as well as Kohn's Music Store in Sandusky.

Please DO NOT purchase the off brand instruments currently being sold at department stores and on the internet. Our local music stores cannot repair them and sending them overseas for repair is not reasonable. Instruments often need normal adjustments and minor reparations.

If you purchase or borrow a used instrument, please have it checked over carefully. A poor working instrument will almost guarantee failure. You can bring them to school and I will check your instrument after school or you may take it to any of our fine music stores.

Do not let your child open or play with their instrument until they learn the proper assembly and care of the instrument.

Some of the instruments the band will provide free of charge are:

Baritone          Tenor Saxophone (very limited)

Tuba                Bass Clarinet

Oboe                French Horn

Bassoon

If your child will be learning to play one of these instruments above you will need to purchase a few accessories.

These are the size, brand names (for size only). If at any time you have any questions please send a note, or contact me by email [carmstr835@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carmstr835@sbcglobal.net) or [carmstrong@phasd.us](mailto:carmstrong@phasd.us) (Ft. Gratiot Band in the subject line, please). You can also send me a message from our website:

FortGratiotBand.org

**Flute players need:**

Closed hole flute with cleaning rod, a book and a music stand for home practice.

**Oboe players need:**

The school will supply an oboe, however you will need to purchase 2 reeds (medium soft), a special oboe reed saver, cork grease, cleaning kit with a swab, a book, and a music stand for home practice.

**Clarinet players need:**

Clarinet, mouthpiece, ligature, and four number 2 reeds, reed holder for 4 reeds, cork grease, cleaning kit with a swab, a book, and a music stand for home practice.

**Bass Clarinet players need:**

The school will supply a bass clarinet, however you will need to purchase a mouthpiece, ligature, and four number 2 reeds, reed holder for 4 reeds, cork grease, cleaning kit with a swab, a book, and a music stand for home practice.

**Saxophone players:**

Saxophone, mouth piece, a ligature, a neck strap, four number 2 1/2 reeds, reed holder for 4 reeds, cork grease, cleaning kit with a swab, a book, and a music stand for home practice.

**Bassoon Players need:**

The school will supply (2) bassoons one for home and one for school, however you will need to purchase 2 reeds (medium soft), a special bassoon reed saver, cork grease, cleaning kit with a swab, a book, and a music stand for home practice.

**Tenor Saxophone players need:**

Tenor Saxophone, mouthpiece, a ligature, a neck strap, four number 2 1/2 reeds, reed holder for 4 reeds, cork grease, cleaning kit with a swab, a book, and a music stand for home practice. (The school may be able to supply a tenor saxophone if necessary.)

**French horn players need:**

A mouth piece size 18 (Bach or equivalent in size), a mouth piece case, a book and a music stand for home practice, tuning slide grease, and rotor oil. The school will supply 2 double French horns, one for home and one for school.

**Trumpet Players need:**

A trumpet or cornet, 7 C Bach size mouthpiece, valve oil, cleaning kit, a book, and a music stand for home practice.

**Trombone players need:**

Trombone, a 12 C Bach sized mouthpiece, slide cream, a spray bottle, tuning slide grease, a book, and a music stand for home practice.

**Baritone players need:**

The school will supply (2) baritones one for home and one for school, however you will need to purchase a cleaning kit, a mouthpiece 12C Bach size, as well as a mouth piece case, a book, valve oil, tuning slide grease, and a music stand for home practice.

**Tuba Players need:**

The school will supply (2) Tubas one for home and one for school, however you will need to purchase 24W Bach mouthpiece or equivalent and a mouth piece case, a book, valve oil, tuning slide grease, a cleaning kit, and a music stand for home practice.

**Percussion players need:**

A percussion kit, (includes a bell kit and a practice pad with stand, 2B drum sticks, and a pair of bell mallets, **not a snare drum**), a book, a metronome, and a willingness to practice both bells and drums every day.

As a recap, your student will need an instrument and all supplies by Monday September 19, 2011.

The books we will be using are the Essential Elements Instant Success (supplied by the school) and the Essential Elements 2000 Book #1 with a three-month smart music subscription and a DVD. The instant success book is out of print. The Essential Elements book must be purchased. If this causes a hardship, please let me know before September 19. We will also be using note spellers which I will be purchasing for the students in the near future. Please be sure to ask your student about their completion as the year progresses. The notespellers will be turned in near the time of the Christmas concert and will be graded.

Welcome to our band program, and please let me know if I can be of assistance. Please use email, notes, or even come in at the end of the school day, if I can help in any way.

Sincerely,

Cindy Armstrong, Fort Gratiot Band  
[carmstrong@phasd.us](mailto:carmstrong@phasd.us)  
[carmstr835@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carmstr835@sbcglobal.net)