

Forms to be passed out to beginning band students this week (9/14/09)

Dear Parents of: _____

Your child has decided to play the _____

Our first classes with instruments will begin the week of September 28, 2009. 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.

Kohn's will be having an open house at Thomas Edison Inn this week; I will get you the date and time soon. 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 repairs.

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. Much damage has been the result of students "practicing" before the proper instruction has been given. Then the instrument sits in the shop for repairs and the students miss their first few days.

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

Baritone	Tenor Saxophone (very limited)
Tuba	Bass Clarinet
Oboe	Bassoon
French Horn	

If your child will be learning to play one of these instruments above, you will still need to purchase a few accessories. Please see the next pages for size, brand names (for size only). Keep in mind, the band does sometimes have several of these items, if it is a financial hardship on your family, please send a note in and we will find a way to accommodate your child, if we can. The most important part of playing an instrument is desire; students **MUST** play an instrument they want to play. Please, let me know if I can help.

If at any time you have any questions please send a note, or contact me by email carmstr835@comcast.net or carmstrong@port-huron.k12.mi.us (Ft. Gratiot Band in the subject line, please).

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 two reeds (medium soft), and 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.

Alto Saxophone players:

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.

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 28, 2009.

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. Please purchase the Essential Elements book one. If this causes a hardship, please let me know before September 28.

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
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carmstr835@comcast.net