

Beginning Band 2022-2023 Information

For Students and Parents of Third Graders

Please read the information in this packet about choosing instruments and signing up for band for next school year!

*****Please return the last page of the packet filled out by Thursday, June 2nd *****

Contact Mrs. Ryan with any questions or concerns!



Berlin Public Schools Music Department

May 26, 2022

Dear Third Grade Parents and Guardians,

It is an exciting time of year for third graders! Today, third graders learned all about the band instruments and band program for fourth grade next year!. ***Band is optional for students to participate next year. However, I highly recommend giving it a try in fourth grade to see if it is something your child enjoys and/or excels in!***

On the next page, please go over the options with your child, fill out the instrument choice form, sign the bottom, and return it to school ***no later than Thursday, June 2nd***. Students will choose a first choice and a second choice instrument for next year, then I will select one of those instruments for them to play. I will try my best to give students their first choice, however, it is important that we have a balanced amount of kids on each instrument. There are also other factors that I take into consideration as well (size of instrument/size of child, musical skills, academic skills, responsibility, etc.).

After assigning instruments, I will return a letter to you indicating which instrument your child will play next year along with information on where and when to rent instruments and what supplies and books to purchase. If you already own an instrument that you'd like your child to use in fourth grade, please let me know via email or write it on the form.

Please note:

Parents and guardians are required to rent an instrument from a local music store and purchase supplies necessary for that instrument (reeds, swabs, oil, books, etc.). However, Hubbard School has a very limited supply of school-loan instruments available for those who need financial assistance. Please indicate on the form if you think you'll need a school instrument. They are available on a first come first served basis.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns! I am looking forward to starting band with the upcoming fourth graders in the fall!

Sincerely,
Shelby Ryan
Vocal and Instrumental Music
Hubbard School
sryan@berlinschools.org

PLEASE RETURN THE LAST PAGE BY THURSDAY, JUNE 2ND 2022. THANK YOU! 😊

Hubbard Beginning Band 2022-2023

Instruments offered for upcoming 4th grade beginners:



Flute



Clarinet



Alto Saxophone



Trumpet



Trombone



Baritone



Percussion

***Please see the next page for information on each instrument.**

***Please carefully read considerations for each instrument with your child.**

***Some instruments have special circumstances like cost, size, difficulty level, etc. that will need to be considered when choosing an instrument.**



Choosing an Instrument

Please read about each instrument
to help you decide which
instrument to play



Flute: The flute is a higher sounding instrument, and is played sideways. Students blow across the hole to produce a sound. Consider choosing the flute if you have successfully made a sound on the instrument when you tried it at the demonstration. It is critical that students who choose flute have highly developed fine motor skills because the fingerings are difficult.

Clarinet: The clarinet has a large range of notes: it can play low and high! The clarinet is played with a reed on the mouthpiece. Students will need to cover the holes when playing the clarinet. If you successfully covered the holes on a recorder in third grade, consider the clarinet.

Saxophone: The saxophone has a large range of notes: it can play low and high! It is also played with a reed on the mouthpiece. The saxophone has the same fingerings (fingers placed on the keys) as the recorder!

Trumpet: The trumpet is the smallest brass instrument and can play the highest notes. Students who choose trumpet should have the ability to firm their lips and control their lip muscles.

Trombone: The trombone is the largest instrument and makes a low sound. Students will use the slide to play the notes. Students will learn to read the bass clef, so if you are good at note reading, this may be a great choice!

Baritone: The baritone plays low notes and reads bass clef like the trombone. But, it has 3 valves like the trumpet and sits on your lap instead of in the air.

*Baritones are generally more expensive to rent than other instruments. Trumpet or Trombone are a good second choice if baritone is not financially feasible. Some stores offer smaller sized baritones for smaller kids to be successful (Please ask Mrs. Ryan which store offers the smaller baritone).

Percussion: Snare Drum, Bass Drum, & Auxiliary instruments (cymbals, tambourine, triangle, etc). Percussion is NOT drum set. Drum set is a different instrument and requires private lessons. You are NOT required to have a drum set at home in order to play percussion. You will rent a snare drum pack.

RENTING AN INSTRUMENT

*In order to participate in the band, most students will rent an instrument from a local music store.

*Purchasing an instrument is not recommended until the student has played for at least one year.

*Purchasing "cheap" instruments found online (amazon, facebook marketplace, tag sales, etc.) is NOT recommended because they will likely be in very poor condition and need constant repairs.

*Information and flyers about renting instruments will be sent home after students have been given their instrument choice for next year.

**Please contact me if there is a financial hardship preventing you from renting an instrument. Hubbard School has a small selection of school instruments that can be borrowed on a first come-first served basis.

Shelby Ryan: sryan@berlinschools.org

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Please use PENCIL!

Check off your child's first choice and second choice instruments.

**Please note: If your child is choosing NOT to participate in band, please check off the box at the bottom*



Flute: ____ 1st Choice ____ 2nd Choice



Clarinet : ____ 1st Choice ____ 2nd Choice



Alto Saxophone: ____ 1st Choice ____ 2nd Choice



Trumpet: ____ 1st Choice ____ 2nd Choice



Trombone: ____ 1st Choice ____ 2nd Choice



Baritone: ____ 1st Choice ____ 2nd Choice



Percussion: ____ 1st Choice ____ 2nd Choice

Parent Section: Please choose one of the options below.

A. My child, _____ has permission to participate in fourth grade band next year.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____.

_____*We would like to be considered for a free school-loaned instrument next year due to financial-need. If you check this off, Mrs. Ryan will contact you about the options and available instruments.* ☺

OR B. My child, _____ will not be participating in band next year in fourth grade.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____.

****Please return this page signed no later than THURSDAY JUNE 2nd! I cannot choose instruments for students until they are all turned in.**

Any questions, email me anytime! sryan@berlinschools.org