



June 19, 2023

To Incoming Grade 5 Families:

LEARN TO PLAY AN INSTRUMENT - SIGN UP NOW!

At HMS your child has the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument and participate in the instrumental music program. We hope that all students will take advantage of this challenging and enriching opportunity. Playing an instrument is not only musically rewarding and fun, but a life-long skill.

Lessons are scheduled during the school day and *are open to everyone free of charge*. In order to develop the schedule for this year, we need to know your initial decision to participate in band. Participation in an instrument class is a full-year commitment and should be discussed with your child. This commitment includes participating in the school lessons and practice at home. A link to sign up online has been sent through email and included at the bottom of this info sheet. Interested families should complete the form and submit as soon as they can. At this time, students do not need to designate a specific instrument, but should list their top three choices. This will guarantee they are placed in a lesson class, and help even out class sizes and instrumentation. Not every football player is a quarterback, and in Band, everyone can't play the same instrument. Each player is in a position that's good for them AND the team. After the demonstration at the start of the school year, students will be allowed to reconsider their instrument choice and/or decision to participate.

The instrument rental night is September 12 at 7:00pm for anyone needing an instrument. If you already have an instrument or know of someone willing to sell or loan you one, please have an instrument technician inspect it to make sure it's in good playing condition. Email Mrs. Thornell for contact information.

INSTRUMENT CHOICES

* Flute *Oboe * Clarinet * Alto Saxophone
*French Horn * Trumpet * Trombone ** Percussion

** Percussion Note

Playing percussion in Band is so much more than just a drum set, as there are many parts to play! The percussion kit used in class includes bells and a drum. Starting with both of these helps develop reading and rhythm skills necessary for a percussion player, and allows students to play melodic parts within the ensemble. By 6th grade, all percussion instruments are incorporated including snare and bass drum, drum set, cymbals, auxiliary percussion, and timpani. For students who already have a piano focus, percussion mallets/bells are a natural fit, since they are set up like a piano keyboard and read the same clef and range.

Additional Instrument Info

- All instrument classes are scheduled during the day; no after school rehearsals. If a student does not play an instrument, they are automatically placed in a general music class. (There is no Chorus in Grade 5)
 - There will be a demonstration in September so that students may learn more about the instrument options and finalize their decision. Students do not need to have any previous experience playing an instrument.
 - One instrument isn't easier than another; it all depends on the player. Some students may have certain physical characteristics that could help or hinder their progress. For example, beginning students with very small hands may have difficulty wrapping fingers around the body of the saxophone in order to press down specific keys. However, there are always exceptions. If you are wondering about a certain instrument for your child, and would like to know if any physical characteristics might make it more difficult, please email Jthornell@hanoverschools.org.
 - For anyone needing to rent an instrument, you can go through any instrument company. For your convenience, a rental night with a local instrument company, Goulet & Co., will be held September 12. They service many schools in the area, including Hanover. If you cannot attend that night, just let us know and we can provide additional information.
 - If you already own the instrument your child wants to play, please have it checked by an instrument technician to assess its playability. Email Mrs. Thornell for technicians in the area.
 - If interested in private lessons to get started with someone one-on-one, please contact Mrs. Thornell for a list of recommended professionals on your instrument.
 - There are a limited number of school instruments available. Contact Mrs. Thornell or your child's Guidance counselor to arrange use of a school instrument.
 - The standard instrument choices are flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, euphonium, trombone, and percussion. More specialized instruments such as oboe and french horn are also available.
 - To learn the differences between the individual instruments and what they are, visit www.bepartofthemusic.org. Watch the instrument videos with your child, and discuss the options.
 - We highly recommend that unless you have a great deal of instrument knowledge and/or director recommendations, avoid purchasing your first instrument online (there's a reason some of those brands cost less) or from a store that sells both instruments and groceries. Please remember, as you shop for instruments and supplies, consider quality as well as price. Sometimes it is hard to tell whether an instrument is in good condition when you are getting it online or from places other than a music store. You might wind up spending a lot of money to repair an inexpensive instrument that seemed like a good deal. If you are not sure about what you are getting, please ask and we will be happy to recommend certain items that are both of high quality and a reasonable price, or we can look at any instruments and check them out for you before you buy one.
 - Piano, Bass, and Guitar are instruments included in the Jazz Band, but not in the regular band. If a student already plays one of these instruments, they can sign up for a concert band instrument to play, and then may also audition for Jazz Band on piano, bass, or guitar.
 - **Online** [Band Website](#) / [Facebook](#) / [Twitter](#)
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What's next?

Complete the [sign-up form](#). Even if your child isn't sure of their instrument choice, this will help us start planning our instrument classes. The sign-up form also includes a section where you can ask questions or provide additional info.