



William C. McGinnis BEGINNING BAND



Dear Students and Families,

Thank you for your interest in joining the William C. McGinnis School Band. This is an exciting and important time in their musical careers! The instrument your child picks will be the instrument he or she will play through middle, high school, and even into college. Please fill out the attached sheet with your child and return it by **Monday September 25, 2017**.

Instrument Selection

The most important factor in assigning students instruments to play is **interest**. Attached to this letter is a form where you and your child can decide which three instruments he or she is most interested in learning. After I have gotten back the sheets, I will start doing instrument assessments. I will meet with students and let them try their choices out and see which instrument fits them the best. Different instruments require different strengths. For instance, the flute requires patience as the embouchure develops. The clarinet requires finger dexterity. The trombone requires a very good ear. In the instrumental assessment, we will discuss which instrument will be the best fit for each student. The final instrument selection will be made on the criteria of student interest, which instruments fit the student the best, and instrument availability. After all the assessments are completed, I will send home a form with more information on the **IMPORTANT: Due to the weight of the marching drums, drums are NOT an option for instrument selection during the 5th grade. We do this to avoid injuries (especially back injuries).**

Getting an Instrument

Once your child has had his or her assessment and a final instrument choice has been made, the students need to acquire instruments. There are several ways to get an instrument:

Borrowing From The School

The school has **some** instruments available to borrow. These instruments generally are in good condition, although they show much more wear than the rent-to-own instruments. Students are responsible for the instrument and if lost or seriously damaged they will be held responsible for replacement/repair costs. Unfortunately, due to more students joining band, we don't have enough instruments for everyone to borrow from the school this year.

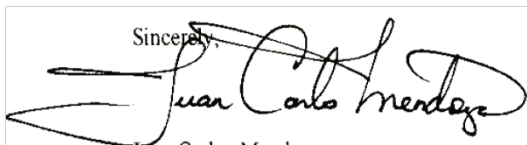
A Rent-To-Own Program

This is the best way to get an instrument. The instruments available are new or slightly used. You pay a monthly rental fee that goes directly toward the cost of buying the instrument. <http://samashmusic.com/rentals-leasing/>

Buying An Instrument Or Bringing One From Home

If you already have an instrument in good shape at home, this is probably the best choice for you. If you're not sure if the instrument is in good enough shape to use in band, you could have your child bring it in to school and I can take a look at it. Be very careful when buying instruments. Used instruments may require repairs or adjustments. Be wary of new instruments sold online with very low prices. Many of these instruments often have quality issues and repair shops will often refuse to work on them. If you are interested in buying your child an instrument, talk to me and I can give you more information.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email me at: juanmendoza@paps.net

Sincerely,

Juan Carlos Mendoza
William C. McGinnis School Band Director



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Name: _____ Grade: _____ Homeroom Teacher: _____

Have you played an instrument before? _____ If yes, how long? _____

Instrument Choices:

First choice: _____

Second choice: _____

Third Choice: _____

Do you own any of these instruments? _____

Is so, which one? _____

My child has permission to participate in instrumental music (band) at William C. McGinnis.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (print): _____ Date: _____

Parent/ Guardian Email: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone: _____

Below is a list of beginning instrument for band. Please select three instruments from this list when making your choice.

BEGINNING BAND INSTRUMENTS

- Flute
- Clarinet
- Saxophone
- Trumpet
- Trombone
- Mallet Percussion



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Trombone



Trumpet



Flute



Saxophone



Clarinet



Mallet Percussion

