



Dear Parents:

Our beginning band class for next year is now being organized. We are now accepting registration for class, and I want to be able to discuss and answer questions you may have about schedules, instruments, and anything else you may think of.

Why Band?

The study of music, specifically instrumental music, has been shown to improve cognitive reasoning and ability - it makes us smarter! In Band, the concepts we cover are interdisciplinary: we study math, reading skills (music is a foreign language!), history, science, anatomy, team work... the

list goes on and on. It also allows us to be creative and expressive in a way no other subject can. The variety of instruments in a school band is unmatched by any other ensemble. Band is just plain fun!

Instrument choices for beginners are Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone(limited number), Trumpet and Trombone. We will also allow 6 students to begin on Percussion (first-come), and French Horn is a possibility. For your convenience, I have three reliable, local music companies to have approved band instruments available for rent. We believe this will be to your advantage since it does not obligate you to buy an instrument, though may choose to do so if you wish. Please see the attached pages for more information.

Please understand the importance of this registration process. For scheduling purposes, our school needs to know if your child wants to participate in band BEFORE school dismisses for the summer. **If your child has any interest in the band program, you must register them either by completing this [google form](#) OR by mailing me the paper form below.**

Feel free to email me with any questions you have about band or the study of music in our school. I hope you agree with my belief and that of educators all over the country, that every child should have the chance to learn and understand music, to participate in it and to appreciate it. I will look forward to seeing you at this meeting.

Sincerely,
Mike Blakeslee
Band Director
A.G. Cox Middle School

If you would like to sign your child up for beginning band for next school year and **CANNOT** access the above online form, please fill out the portion below and return this form **as soon as possible** to the address below. Students registering may be subject to a limited choice of instruments as the program must maintain proper balance.

Mike Blakeslee, Band Director
AG Cox Middle School
2657 Church St.
Winterville, NC 28590

STUDENT'S NAME _____
PARENT'S NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
PHONE NUMBER _____ FIRST CHOICE INSTRUMENT _____
SECOND CHOICE INSTRUMENT _____

JOINING BAND? WHAT ABOUT AN INSTRUMENT?

If you are considering enrolling your child in beginning band class, here are some important things to consider about a band instrument.

Your child will need his/her own instrument. This instrument must be in excellent playing condition and available for your child to use by the time the class begins playing at the beginning of next semester (or summer band class if offered). In order for your child to succeed in band class, this instrument must be of reasonable quality and durable construction so that it will operate correctly, play in tune, have a decent tone quality and can be repaired when needed. From time to time, all band instruments, regardless of quality or price, will need adjustments and repairs, so serviceability of your instrument is an absolute must. You must be aware of the many inexpensive off-brand band instruments that have become available in recent years. The age-old adage is true—you do get exactly what you pay for. These instruments usually play out of tune, ***cannot be repaired*** and do not give students a decent opportunity to succeed.

USING A FULL-SERVICE SCHOOL MUSIC DEALER IS YOUR BEST DEAL

Band instruments are available from many sources: Grandma's attic, Yard Sales, Pawn Shops, On-Line Retailers, and a variety of local Music Stores. A small number of music stores classify themselves as "Full Service School Music Dealers". Servicing school music programs is the primary focus of these stores: they maintain an inventory of the quality of new and used band instruments that are recommended by band directors; they know about and stock the exact method books and supplies that our school requires; they have a complete repair shop staffed with trained repair technicians to service your instrument; they have a Music Educational Representative that calls on your school on a regular basis; they provide an optional coverage that will pay for minor repairs and replace your horn if it is lost or stolen; and, they offer affordable rental programs for you and your child. A Full-Service School Music Dealer will be your most cost-effective way to acquire the right instrument for your child.

WHY RENTING IS YOUR BEST OPTION

Paying a small fee to rent an instrument on a monthly rental plan with a return option makes more sense than spending several hundred dollars on purchasing an instrument that your child may not like or that may need repair before they can even play it. Renting your instrument is very affordable, assures you that your child will have a good quality instrument that will play correctly and can be repaired when needed. This takes the risk out of the equation. Monthly rent-to-own payments are only a fraction of the price of the instrument. You can return your instrument or switch to another instrument with no problem or, if you decide, you can purchase your instrument with credit from rental payments made. Representatives will be on hand to discuss these options at our sign-up meeting and can reserve an instrument for your child.

Our full-service music dealers will have all of the instruments that are available for your beginner. Their representatives can answer questions about the various options and what might be best for your particular situation. Reserving an instrument with them now will take just a few minutes, save you the hassle of taking care of this during the busy summer months and give your student the best opportunity to succeed in band class.

WHERE CAN I RENT AN INSTRUMENT?

We have partnered with several Full-Service School Music Dealers in our area to offer you reliable, affordable choices. Any of the following companies provide outstanding service, and can be trusted fully to support you and your child's school instrument needs.

Fuller's Music

Wade Fuller, School Music Manager

fullersmusic.com

2310 Trent Rd., New Bern, NC 28562

Phone: (252)638-2811

Email: wade@fullersmusic.com

Music&Arts

Michael Partin

Music & Arts Educational Representative

Eastern North Carolina

252-414-9181

michael.partin@musicarts.com | www.musicarts.com

McFadyen Music

103 E Arlington Blvd, Sute 102

Greenville, NC 27858, US

+1 252-355-4000

mcfadyenmusic@gmail.com

<https://www.mcfadyenmusic.com/>

