



Bill Gregory – Instrumental Music Teacher, PCES



What is needed for Band and Orchestra?

(you can take this sheet to the music store with you)

In addition to an instrument, the following items are needed for our class:

FLUTE: cleaning rod (should come in the case), a silk cloth to use with the cleaning rod

CLARINET: soft cleaning cloth, cleaning swab, cork grease, at least 4 reeds (#2). A rubber pad on the thumb rest should be included with the instrument.

ALTO SAX: soft cleaning cloth, cleaning swab (some sax cleaning swabs are of very poor quality and hard to use – have the store demonstrate it for you), cork grease, at least 4 reeds (#2). Ask the store to provide a padded neck strap – unpadded straps are very uncomfortable. Be sure the strap can be adjusted to the correct size - some are too long for young players. Alto saxes are expensive to rent or purchase. If a student’s ultimate goal is to play alto sax, but the cost is prohibitive in 4th and 5th grade, they should start playing clarinet. That sets them up well for switching to alto sax in middle school.

TRUMPET/CORNET: soft cleaning cloth, valve oil, size 7C (or similar) mouthpiece

TROMBONE: soft cleaning cloth, slide cream (not slide oil), water spray bottle, size 12C (or similar) mouthpiece

BARITONE: soft cleaning cloth, valve oil, size 12C (or similar) mouthpiece

PERCUSSION: a complete percussion kit including bells with stand, bell mallets, practice pad with stand, and drum sticks (students need a practice pad for our class use – not a snare drum). This kit may be heavy – most models come with wheels so that they can be rolled like a suitcase.

VIOLIN, VIOLA, CELLO: (see box for recommended size – a music store can also measure students)

♪ bow, soft cleaning cloth, rosin, fine-tuners on each string

♪ a shoulder rest for violins and violas – any type is fine – be sure that the shoulder rest is the correct size

♪ a “rock stop” for cellos – this keeps the end pin from sliding on the floor (and protects the floor)

♪ be sure that the cello case is padded well enough to survive being jostled on the school bus

Size needed:

INFORMATION FOR ALL INSTRUMENTS

♪ The instrument should be provided with a sturdy case.

♪ Be sure the student’s name is visible on a nametag on the outside of the case.

♪ If you rent an instrument, repair and damage insurance may be a good idea.

♪ Method book for all band instruments: **Essential Elements for Band, Book 1, published by Hal Leonard**

♪ Method book for orchestra instruments: **String Basics, Book 1, published by Kjos**

These books will be provided free of charge by MCPS, however, if you want to buy a copy for your child, they are available at area music stores.

♪ A music stand is recommended for home practice.

♪ See the other side of this letter for a list of locations that offer instrument rental programs and supplies.

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