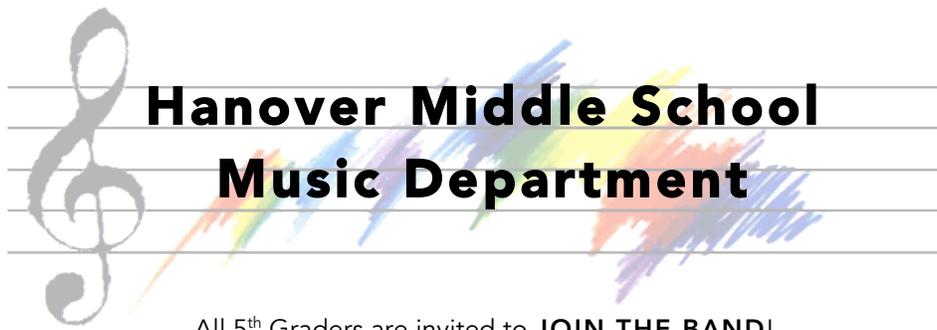


September 4, 2019



All 5th Graders are invited to **JOIN THE BAND!**

This year, your child has the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument and participate in our instrumental music program. Lessons are scheduled during the school day and *are open to everyone free of charge*. There was an instrument demonstration held today during school to introduce the various instruments that may be chosen. If a student is not currently in a lesson group but wishes to sign up, their schedule will be adjusted after they are registered. There are also a limited number of instruments available through the school for any family who may have financial difficulty affording an instrument. If interested in a school instrument, please contact me for more information.

REGISTRATION: Beginning instrument registration is still online, and should be completed by Monday, September 9. **Visit the band website to access the link - www.bandhms.weebly.com** - where you can then select your child's top three instrument picks. If you are unable to access the website or complete online registration, please email Jthornell@hanoverschools.org, or call (781) 871-1122. Students will be assigned one of their top three choices, which will help balance instrumentation in Band, and manage class sizes. As always, if a student has any difficulties with their instrument once they start, or if a different instrument might be better for them, please do not hesitate to contact me.

INSTRUMENT RENTAL: To start the year, your child needs an instrument and a lesson book. For your convenience, Goulet & Co. will be at HMS on **Thursday, September 12 at 7:00pm** to provide rental instruments and books. Since this is a rent-to-own program, you need only pay the first month's rental fee (cash or check) at this meeting. Each monthly payment is put towards the balance of the instrument, and after the specified number of payments are made, the instrument is yours to keep. All instruments are around \$24 per month except saxophones, oboes and French horns, which are around \$44. You and your child will benefit from the fact that Goulet & Co. is an authorized musical instrument dealer in the following ways:

- 1.) Goulet & Co. is a band instrument specialist – not a general music store.
- 2.) They are able to rent the highest quality student instruments because of licensing/franchise agreements with the finest manufacturers.
- 3.) An expert technician visits Hanover Middle School weekly for service, repairs, and supplies. Repairs are included in your contract and a loaner instrument will be provided if yours cannot be repaired at school.

I recommend using the Goulet & Co. Rental Program because I've found that having a quality, well-serviced instrument is a major factor in a student's enjoyment and success. Please contact me if you are unable to attend the meeting but are interested in the rental program.

OTHER SOURCES: You may already have an instrument, or will be borrowing one from an acquaintance. Please have a technician inspect it to make sure it is in playing condition. Recommendations are listed on the HMS Band website, www.bandhms.weebly.com. Also, department stores and retail chains cannot provide the same quality instruments and service as a music instrument dealer, so be careful if a non-music related store has an instrument at a price that seems too good to be true. **If you are not interested in the Goulet & Co. Rental Program it is not necessary for you to attend the evening meeting.** I will have extra books in school for students to purchase. And if you are looking online for instrument options, I can provide recommended brands for each instrument.

Good luck with the start of the school year and I look forward to meeting you soon!

Sincerely,

Julienne Thornell

HMS Instrumental Music Director

HMS Music: Answers to the most frequently asked questions

- All 5th grade students have Chorus for one term.
All 5th grade music classes are scheduled during the day, no after-school rehearsals.
In 6th grade students choose Band, Chorus, or General Music.
- If a student does not play an instrument in 5th grade, they are automatically placed in a general music class.
- 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 will 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 to receive some general descriptions.
- 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 on Thursday, 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.
- For anyone who already owns an instrument, please have it checked by an instrument technician to assess its playability; Brass & Woodwinds: Don Altobello, (781) 337-2747; Woodwinds only: Gary Gorczyca, (781) 749-3050.
- If anyone is interested in starting private lessons to receive individual attention, there is a lesson program through the Office of Family and Community Engagement, and information/registration is through their page on the HPS website. If you need additional options, you can contact Mrs. Thornell for a list of other professional musicians/teachers in the area.
- There are a limited number of school instruments available to students with financial need. Contact Mrs. Thornell or your child's Guidance counselor to arrange use of a school instrument.
- Students do not need to have any previous experience playing an 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.
- We highly recommend that unless you have a great deal of instrument knowledge and/or director recommendations, avoid purchasing your first instrument online 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 places other than a music store. You might wind up spending a lot of money to repair what seems like an inexpensive instrument. 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.
- Percussion students learn melodic and rhythmic parts. They receive a percussion kit that 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. Once students can correctly read music pitch and rhythm on bells and snare, they will start using those instruments in 6th grade band, as well as cymbals, drum set, auxiliary percussion, and timpani.
- Jazz Band meets once a week after school, and includes grades 6 through 8.
5th graders may audition if they have played their instrument for more than a year and take private lessons outside of school.
- Piano, Bass, and Guitar are instruments included in the Jazz Band, but not in regular band. If a student already plays one of those instruments, they can sign up for a concert band instrument to play in 5th grade, and then in 6th grade may also audition for Jazz Band on piano, bass, or guitar. 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.
- Online: You can visit the band website for information during the year, www.bandhms.weebly.com, and also find "Hanover Middle School Band" on Facebook and Twitter.