



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. Participation in instrument lessons is a full-year commitment which includes participation in the group lessons during the school day and individual practice at home. Learning these new music skills makes it possible for students to play in the band, collaborate with others, have fun making music, and participate in additional music opportunities throughout middle school and beyond.

REGISTRATION: Beginning instrument registration is still online, and should be completed by Monday, September 18.

Scan the QR code below to sign up. If you are unable to access or complete online registration, please let me know. 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 Tuesday, 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, check, or Venmo) 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.
- 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 the Goulet & Co. Rental Program because 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. Please have a technician inspect it to make sure it is in playing condition. Email jthornell@hanoverschools.org for recommended repair technicians in the area. Also, retail chains and some online options cannot provide the same quality instruments and service as a music instrument dealer, so be careful if a non-music related store has instruments 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.

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

Sincerely,

Mrs. Julienne Thornell

HMS Instrumental Music

Jthornell@hanoverschools.org

REGISTER NOW



INSTRUMENT CHOICES

* Flute

* Oboe

* Clarinet

* Alto Saxophone

* French Horn

* Trumpet

* Trombone

** Percussion

*** Percussion Note: Playing percussion in a 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 grade 5 instrument classes are scheduled during the day; no after school rehearsals or evening performances.** If a student does not play an instrument in 5th grade, they are automatically placed in a general music class. (There is no Chorus in Grade 5, that is an option starting in Grade 6.)
- 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, 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 does not specialize in music instruments. 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.

