



Fourth and Fifth Grade Band Information

Welcome to the exciting world of band! At Bement, fourth and fifth graders are required to learn an instrument of their choosing. They study their instrument and play in the band throughout their fourth and fifth grade years.

During our first days of school, we learn about all the options for band instruments. Students need to choose their instruments at the end of class, but you are welcome to begin a conversation with them over the summer about what they might want to play. Instruments offered include trombone, euphonium (also known as baritone horn), flute, clarinet, trumpet and saxophone. If your child has no preference for an instrument, we can always use more trombones or euphoniums in our band program.

If you do not already own an instrument, you can rent one from Gerry's Music in South Hadley. If you're thinking about buying an instrument instead of renting, we do not recommend buying a low-cost instrument from eBay or a discount store such as Costco. These instruments are made from inferior materials and are not repairable if they break. Your best bet is to rent from Gerry's, or another reputable music store, as they provide quality, tested instruments at a very reasonable price. Gerry's insurance plan includes free repairs.

Students will receive a paper form in class that has all the information you need regarding Gerry's rental plans. You can obtain your instrument by completing [the online forms at Gerry's website](#), or by going to Gerry's in person. If you do it in person, you will probably be able to pick up your instrument the same day. You'll also need to purchase our method book. On the form, there is a space for "Book"; enter the title *Essential Elements for Band*.

Gerry's needs your information by Friday, September 10; otherwise, they may not have your instrument ready for our first classes. Our Gerry's rep will be delivering instruments on **Wednesday, September 15**, so you'll need to complete your rental process quickly. I highly recommend renting your instrument online. It's quick and efficient, and you don't have to get into your car!

If you have any questions, please contact [Megan Mahoney](#), band director.