

Welcome to Beginning Band! I'm Melissa Gamage, the band teacher at NLMS. I'm sure you have lots of questions and I'm going to attempt to answer as many as possible!

Supplies for class

- Band Instrument
- Band Book - Sound Innovations for Concert Band, Book One **for your students' instrument!**
- 1 inch, 3-ring binder
- Pencil

Choosing an instrument - Students need to decide by the end of the 2nd week of school (see below)

Most students are unsure of which instrument to play. The options are:

- Flute
- Bb Clarinet
- Alto Saxophone
- Trumpet
- Baritone/Euphonium
- Trombone

Important to know -

Electric Bass - This is an option. However I only allow 3 bass players in the beginning band. You can not rent an electric bass. You will need to purchase one along with the cord and amp. Students interested in Electric Bass MUST have their adult talk with Mrs. Gamage;

Percussion - All students MUST play a woodwind or brass instrument for at least 2 months. There will be auditions for percussion in November.

I will spend the first 2 weeks going over all the instruments. Students will hear them all, see them being played, learn about them, hold them, and possibly have a chance to play them.

Getting an Instrument and instrument supplies

1. Most families rent an instrument. I highly recommend Ted Brown Music because they send a rep to our school every two weeks so you NEVER need to go to their location. PLUS every rental comes with a repair contract included. More info will follow.
2. PLEASE!!! Do not purchase an instrument from Amazon! They are cheaply made (hence the low price) and they do not sound good. Your student will become frustrated by how they sound very quickly. They also break easily and may not be able to be repaired.
3. I do have some instruments to loan. Please send me an email if this is something that will help you.
4. I will send a list of necessary instrument supplies as soon as we are ready to rent.

Most importantly -

- It is expected that ALL students practice at home! This is the only way for them to consistently improve their skills.
- Band is FUN! I'm looking forward to working with your student(s)!!

Sincerely,

Melissa Gamage

melissa_gamage@lkstevens.wednet.edu