

East Greenwich Music Department - Beginner Band

Dear Grade 5 Families,

This marks an exciting year in your child's education here in East Greenwich. As a fifth grade student, your child has the opportunity to participate in **band**! Participating in band not only encourages self-discipline and perseverance, but statistics show students who participate in a musical ensemble have better peer relationships and academic achievement. East Greenwich has a fantastic band program through the secondary level, and it all starts right here in Grade 5! Students are able to choose one of the following instruments: **flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, baritone horn, bells or percussion**. (We do take a limited number of percussionists, please see the FAQ page for more information)

Families have the option of renting to own an instrument from a music store or using an instrument that is available through the district.

The benefits of renting are:

1. Receiving a high-quality instrument at an affordable price— having a high-quality instrument allows students to produce a good tone. Poor quality instruments do not, and can lead to frustration during practice and rehearsal.
2. The rental program is set up as a rent-to-own. Many of our young musicians continue into middle school. The rent-to-own program will allow you to build equity into owning your own instrument.
3. Free repairs- If anything happens to your instrument while renting, Robert's Music can repair your instrument if you choose the additional R & R (Repair & Replacement) plan.
4. You may choose any instrument you wish to play and will not be limited to only the instruments available at Hanaford or Eldredge.

(If you require the school to provide you with an instrument, please contact me at msmith@egsd.net. If the school is to provide your child an instrument, we cannot guarantee they will receive their instrument of choice).

When renting an instrument, we recommend **Robert's Music Instruments** (401-823-5459, www.robertsmusicri.com). Robert's Music is a full-service, family-friendly music store right on Quaker Lane (Rt 2) on the East Greenwich/West Warwick line. They are committed to providing musicians of all skill levels with quality, brand-name merchandise at fair prices with great service. Please visit their website to read more about the benefits of their "rent-to-own" program.

Students will be provided an **Essential Elements for Band: Book One** for their instrument. This book will be used for the entire school year and is critical to their ability to participate in group lessons and practice at home. Also, please strongly consider purchasing your child a **wire music stand** for practicing at home. A music stand is not required, but extremely helpful in promoting proper posture when playing.

East Greenwich Public Schools prides themselves on providing quality education and engaging enrichment opportunities for our students, and we sincerely hope your child chooses to participate in our beginner band program. If you wish to enroll your child, lessons will begin the week of September 14th and instruments will be required starting the week of September 21st. Please read the attached pages to learn more, and feel free to contact me, Mary Smith, with any questions at msmith@egsd.net. I'd be happy to help in any way!

Please keep to top of this form for your information and return the bottom portion to Mrs. Smith by Monday, September 14th

My child, _____, is excited to participate in band! We have read the information included and understand the commitment that is expected.

Classroom Teacher: _____

Instrument: _____

Parent Name: _____

Check one:

Parent Email: _____

- ☐ I will be renting an instrument
☐ We have our own instrument
☐ The school will provide an available instrument
(I will contact Mrs. Smith at msmith@egsd.net with my student's first and second choice instrument requests)

☐ Yes, I would like to be added to Mrs. Smith's "Band List-Serve" so I can receive important information! ☺

BAND FAQs FOR PARENTS



Does my child need to know how to play an instrument to join the band?

Not at all! We'll teach your child everything they need to know to play in the band. We'll start at the beginning with how to hold and handle the instruments, and together they'll learn to read and play music.

When will band classes meet and how much time will band take?

Students participating in band will receive one ½ hour group lesson each week during the school day. These lessons are designed to help students learn skills specific to their instrument, and will start the week of September 14th. Students will also be expected to participate in **full band rehearsals before school on Tuesday mornings, beginning on November 17th**. These mandatory rehearsals prepare our students for two concerts later in the year. Beyond that, students should try their best to practice at least 75 minutes throughout the week (15 minutes a day, five days a week).

Can my child choose any instrument?

Beginner band instruments include flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, baritone horn, bells, and percussion. We do limit the number of percussion to ensure a balanced ensemble. If your child is interested in playing percussion, they will meet with Mrs. Smith to see if it is the right instrument for them. They will be asked to complete simple rhythmic activities where no experience is necessary. Because we can only accept a limited number, we also ask students to have a second instrument choice. This will be explained to them at our band demonstration.

If my child doesn't sign up for band now, will they be able to later?

Beginning band is offered only in fifth grade. The beginning class will cover the foundations of playing an instrument, reading music and band etiquette. Students may join band when moving up to Cole Middle School, but it would be best if they start with their peers.

Will band affect my child's grades in other subjects?

It will almost surely help them. Research has shown that band has a positive influence on other studies. Band teaches self-discipline, careful preparation, and the pride of accomplishment- all applicable to other academic areas.

My child is involved in so many activities (sports, scouts, art, etc.). Won't those activities affect their performance in band and vice versa?

Band students often have many varied interests that make them among the busiest students in the school. There is usually plenty of time in the day if that time is well spent. The experience that they gain in balancing these interests and activities often proves to be a valuable life lesson.