

THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT OF CRANDALL ISD

Greg Hamilton, *Director of Bands, CMS*

Kait Steele, *Associate Director, CMS*

Dear Beginner Band Parent,

We would like to welcome you and your child to the Crandall Band Program. We are extremely excited about our incoming beginner class. We look forward to providing a fantastic music experience for your child.

This packet details how to obtain an instrument and book(s) for your child.

Parents/guardians provide instruments for students playing:

- Flute
- Clarinet
- Saxophone
- Trumpet
- Trombone
- Percussion

CISD provides instruments for students playing (parents/guardians will provide mouthpieces if necessary):

- Oboe or Bassoon
- Tenor Sax or Bass Clarinet
- French horn
- Baritone
- Tuba

All students will need a beginner band book and the appropriate mouthpiece for their instrument.

For the first time, CISD is able to provide assistance in obtaining instruments for any student that is enrolled in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). If your student is part of the free and reduced lunch program, please see the attached page to be a part of the Pirate Instrument Program.

Please note the important information and dates below. Feel free to call us with any questions.

- All students will need access to a tuner and metronome (phone apps are perfect)
- All students should have their instrument and books by Tuesday, **September 5, 2023** unless previous arrangements have been made with a band director.
- There is a \$40 fee to be in band that is due on October 6. The band fee covers a student's band shirt, reeds, oils, equipment usage and basic repairs.

For the first weeks of the school year, we will spend our time without instruments learning to read pitches and rhythms. This preparation will allow us to move fast once all students have instruments in hand.

We look forward to providing your student with a wonderful experience in our program.

Thank you,

Greg Hamilton
ghamilton@crandall-isd.net
972.427.6080 ext. 50232

Kait Steele
kstele@crandall-isd.net
972.427.6080 ext. 50231

Where do I rent or purchase an instrument?

Below we have listed a few places to buy a beginner instrument for your beginner band student. These companies provide great instruments with purchasing and leasing plans. They also provide warranties on all of the instruments that they sell.

We encourage you to check with friends and family, local newspapers, and pawn shops for instruments as well. Feel free to email us to ask about other brands and models that might work well for your beginner. Beware of any instrument brands or prices that seem too good to be true. Many of those brands are unreliable and may work on a different tonal system.

The Band House Music Store (for all instruments)

www.thebandhouse.com

1001 Alanis Dr. #120

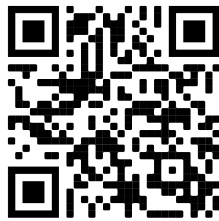
Wylie, TX 75098

318-868-0522

**Will be at Crandall Middle School on Tuesday, August 29, 2023
from 5:00 – 7 PM to rent and sell instruments, band books and accessories.**

You can also rent your instrument on The Band House website. Instruments rented from the website or over the phone from The Band House will be delivered directly to the school.

See the link above or scan the QR code:



Brook Mays

Contact Ellis Smith at: ellissmith@brookmays.com

<https://www.brookmays.com>

945.234.2263

Woodwind Brasswind Online (for all instruments)

www.wwbw.com

Suggested Instrument List

The following is a list of brands and model numbers that we recommend for our students. There are some other acceptable choices, but only a few. Certain instruments can keep your child from reaching their full potential, and in some cases hold them back considerably. We ask that you contact us before buying another type of instrument. The Band House Music Store will be including the suggested beginner mouthpiece with most of the instruments. However, in the case that you purchase an instrument elsewhere, the suggested mouthpiece is listed next to the instrument.

All students must have the beginner band book(s) for their instrument. Students will also need access to a tuner and metronome. There are a number of tuner/metronome apps available for iOS and Android. Stand-alone tuner/metronomes can be purchased at a local music store or online.

Flute

- Yamaha YFl-222
- Pearl 525
- Jupiter JFL700A

Clarinet

- Selmer CL211
 - Yamaha YCL-255
 - Yamaha YCL-450
 - Jupiter JCL700 or JCL-710
- Vandoren 5rv or Hite Premiere mouthpieces are suggested**

Saxophone

- Yamaha YAS-26
 - Yamaha YAS-480
- Selmer C* or Hite Premiere mouthpiece are suggested**

Trumpet (no cornets)

- Yamaha YTR-2330
 - Yamaha YTR-4335GII
 - Bach TR200 or TR200s
- Bach 7C mouthpiece is required**

French Horn

Holton MC mouthpiece is required

Trombone

- Yamaha YSL-354
 - Yamaha YSL-448G
 - Jupiter JTB1150FO
- Bach 6 ½ AL mouthpiece is required**

Baritone

Bach 6 ½ AL mouthpiece is required

Tuba

Bach 24 AW or Helleberg mouthpiece is required

Percussion

- Any Beginner Pad/Bell Kit such as Pearl PK910C or similar
- Also need Vic Firth EP2 Education Pack

Students playing Oboe, Bassoon, Bass Clarinet and Tenor Sax will have necessary equipment provided through their regular band fees. They must still purchase a band book for their instrument.

How do I enroll my student in the Pirate Instrument Program?

The Pirate Instrument Program (PIP) provides assistance in obtaining instruments, mouthpieces and/or books for Crandall's beginner band students. If your student is part of the NSLP (National School Lunch Program that provides free or reduced lunch to students), you may enroll your student in the PIP. The program is open to beginner students of all instruments, provided they are part of the NSLP.

Students that are enrolled in the program will be able to continue using a district-owned instrument through all of their years in the Crandall Band program. The instrument will be checked-out on a yearly basis. Students will agree to keep the instrument in good condition.

All band students will have a yearly band fee, even if they are enrolled in the PIP and/or NSLP.

In order to enroll, please scan the QR code below, which will direct you to an online form. Complete the online form to verify eligibility. Once eligibility is confirmed, we will arrange the instrument check-out at school with your student.



Or enroll by typing or clicking the link below:

<https://forms.gle/bUuZWWJjZUuWcign9>

Beginner Band FAQ

Do I have to know how to play or read music yet?

No, we'll teach you how to read music and play your instrument from the very beginning.

What book do I need for beginner band?

Wind players will need **Essential Elements Book 1** for your instrument. Percussionists will need both the **Fresh Approach to Snare Drum** and the **Fresh Approach to Keyboard Percussion** books. All books can be purchased at your local music store, or online retailers such as Amazon.

I have a used instrument that's not on the suggested instrument list. Can a band director look it over for me?

Yes, we can. Please email us to set up a time.

Can you summarize everything my child will need for their beginner band class?

- Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone and Percussion players will need an instrument, appropriate mouthpiece and beginner book. Students may rent or purchase from any retailer or utilize the Pirate Instrument Program.
- French Horn, Baritone and Tuba players will need the appropriate mouthpiece and beginner book. Students will purchase these items or utilize the Pirate Instrument Program.
- All band members will pay a band fee of \$40 by October 6.

How can I pay my band fees?

- The preferred method for paying band fees is using Crandall's RevTrack payment portal.
- One way is to send cash or a check (written to CISD with your driver's license and phone number noted) with your student. Always send payments in an envelope with your student's name.

Do beginners have after school rehearsals and events?

We do not have after school rehearsals for beginners, however the band hall is open after school most days for 30 minutes if students would like to practice. We have 2-3 events per year outside of the school day (winter and spring concerts and a contest).

Does middle school band interfere with other school activities?

Absolutely not. The directors and coaches of our campus activities have a long history of working together to make sure that students can be active members of various groups without scheduling conflicts.

How do we communicate with directors and find additional information?

Our band website contains lots of helpful information, including an event calendar and contact information.

www.crandallband.org