

RPMS 2020 Getting a BAND Instrument

Hello! If you're here, that means that you are in the **BAND** at Raymond Park, or you're the parent/guardian of a student in RPMS BAND. **Welcome!** This page will help you figure out the best way to supply your child with an instrument for use at School and practicing at Home.

The first step to acquiring an instrument is deciding what instrument to play. In **6th & 7th grade BEGINNING BAND**, you can select one of four instruments: Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, & Trombone. Descriptions of each instrument are on the page below. 7th Grade Beginners will have an option at Semester 2 to make changes to Saxophone, Bass Clarinet, Baritone, & Percussion (RPMS School Owned **Very limited supply**). 6th Grade BEGINNING Band students will stay on the SAME instrument for the **ENTIRE** 6th Grade year.

The second step to acquiring an instrument is Mouth Piece Testing (Paiges Music Beginner Instrument Guide). The Teeth, Chin, and Lips are the key factors to determine which instrument is the "best fit" for the student. Also, if you get an instrument from Raymond Park or Paiges, you will have headache-free options to "up grade" when the student is ready.

The third step is getting the correct accessories for your instrument. Every student additionally needs:

- Mouth Piece
- A cleaning cloth
- A Music Stand for practicing at home
- A tuner/metronome if you already own a music stand
- Valve Oil / Slide Grease for Brass (Trumpet & Trombone)
- Reeds / Reed Case for Clarinet

The cheapest option to get these accessories is to purchase the starter pack all together from Paige's music. You will receive the ideal brands of each item, for much cheaper than the individual prices. If you rent from Paige's music, the starter pack will be automatically included.

The last step is actually acquiring an instrument! I recommend either renting an instrument from Paiges Music, or renting an instrument from RPMS. What are the pros and cons?

With School-owned instruments:

- We have a VERY limited supply of each instrument, and will not have enough every single student to use
- These instruments will go first to parents traditionally on a REDUCED textbook & lunch
- Please communicate if you are worried about finances via email !

- These instruments cost \$35 to rent for the school year. This can be paid in installments, but does not include any required accessories
- To receive a school-owned instrument, the parent/guardian AND student must sign a liability waiver, stating that repairs made necessary due to reckless mishandling or intentional damage can be billed to the family. Instruments owned by Raymond Park have lasted a long time, and will need to last for a long time! **This must be signed and returned by BOTH Parents and Students prior to receiving an instrument.**

If you decide to rent from Paige's music:

- You will rent a brand new or gently used instrument for a monthly fee from Paige's music. This includes all accessories needed for maintenance and proper playing!
- This monthly fee goes 100% towards ownership of your instrument. Rent-to-own.
- These payments include insurance towards damage and maintenance of the instrument.
- If you start on a smaller instrument and need to size up, your payments will roll forward to the new instrument!
- Please contact Paige's Music if you have any more questions about their rental process.

How you acquire an instrument is up to you and your personal situation. My only request is that, if you are interested in getting an instrument another way, let me see the instrument so that I can give you an honest judgement. I want all students in **RPMS BAND to be successful**, and a poorly made instrument will add difficulty that will not help and only hurt the student. **DO NOT BUY ANY INSTRUMENT, ESPECIALLY BRAND NEW, FROM ONLINE FROM STORES SUCH AS AMAZON/WALMART. THESE INSTRUMENTS WILL NOT BE SET UP, AND WILL NOT BE REPAIRABLE WHEN THEY BREAK VERY SOON INTO THE SCHOOL YEAR.**