

HARRIS ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL BANDS

Welcome clarinet players and congratulations on being selected to play the clarinet in the 2021-2022 beginning band at Harris Road Middle School. This letter outlines band fees and required and recommended supplies. Required supplies are supplies that will be used every day in class and are essential for your success. Recommended supplies are those that will aid in your aural skills and musical development, but are not required in year one.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

- ☐ Clarinet in good working condition
- ☐ Black Binder- Provided by band program.
- ☐ Pencil case (soft)- this will stay in your binder to hold supplies and it guarantees you have a pencil every day in class.
- ☐ Pencils and highlighters (no pens).
- ☐ **REEDS:** Two options.
 - Vandoren size 2.5 Reeds (have a minimum of 3 on hand at all times). Once your first box of 2.5 reeds are gone, buy size 3. ****These are cane reeds and can easily break. Box of 10 is approximately \$27**
 - Legere Signature Series size 2.5—This is a synthetic reed. These are harder to break (but not impossible). When handled with care, one legere reed can last your child an entire semester. 1 reed is approximately \$30
- ☐ **Mouthpiece:** Vandoren M13 or B45, Clark W Fobes Debut
- ☐ **Ligature:** Rovner Dark
- ☐ Small pack of sanitizing wipes to stay in pencil case.
- ☐ **Cleaning cloth** and cork grease ****must sanitize your clarinet daily.**
- ☐ Essential Elements Book 1 for Clarinet (Yellow Book)



RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT

- ☐ Korg TM60BK Tuner and Metronome Combo with Clip on Microphone (Amazon)- Students will use a tuner and/or metronome every day in class and will need one for their homework assignments. There are free tuner/metronome apps for your phone and online, but these are not nearly as accurate as a real tuner. Tuner's are required by their 2nd year. Do we have to get a mic? Yes- every band class has at least 60 people in the class. Without the mic, your tuner cannot pick up your individual sound and therefore cannot accurately gauge your pitch. *****I would highly recommend getting a tuner this year in the event we revert to distance learning and students will not have access to the classroom tuners.***

BAND FEES

- ☐ \$10 CCS District Fee— All Cabarrus County students who participate in a performing arts class pay this fee. This fee pays for your student's music for the entire year. In a typical year, that would be 9-12 pieces of music. This fee can be paid online via the Online Payment Center located on the HRMS home page. If you choose to write a check, ***this fee cannot be combined with any other school fees;*** it must be a separate check made out to HRMS band. **DUE By Date: September 6th.**
- ☐ Band Polo- ALL HRMS Band students will need to purchase our band polo. The band polo is embroidered with our band name/logo and is made from a dri-fit/moisture wicking material to keep our students not only looking sharp at competitions, but keeping them cool on stage as well. ****An order form will go home with your student in September.***

OBTAINING YOUR CLARINET

- ☐ Renting—It is highly recommended that beginners rent their Clarinets through **Music and Arts** Rent-to-Own program. This program is a beginning band parent's safety net. Caring for an instrument is a new and exciting adventure, but it is also a very delicate task. Beginners will drop and ding their instruments at some point along the way. Music and Art's Rent to Own program will repair your child's instrument for FREE with their LWD insurance. Additionally, some students will change their mind and want to switch instruments. With the rental program, parents do not lose any money. What you have paid towards your first instrument, will simply be credited towards your new rental. In the long run, it saves you a lot of money.
- ☐ HOW To Rent→ Simply go to Music and Arts located on Concord Mills Blvd, tell them you are a 6th grader from Harris Road Middle school and you are going to play the Clarinet. They will pull up my recommendation sheet and get you squared away with the correct books and brand. OR you can simply go to <https://www.musicarts.com/rentals/> ****Choose In-store pick up. Please do not have the instrument shipped to the school because it could be weeks before you get it and we want all students to begin on time.**
- ☐ Buying→If you choose to purchase a Clarinet and not rent, brand is EVERYTHING. I recommend Buffet Premium Student (R13), Yamaha YCL-255 or YCL-450. Are there cheaper beginning options? Yes, but with instruments cheaper is rarely better. My advice is to only purchase an instrument at a music store and stick to known brands and colors (black only, not that purple Clarinet on ebay...).
- ☐ Used Instruments→ If the seller cannot demonstrate the instrument, do not buy it. That is a strong indication that it doesn't work and/or the owner has no idea what they are talking about. Repairs for musical instruments can add up quickly. If you go this route, please get it fully serviced before school starts. ****ALL music stores see an influx in renting and repairs during the months of July and August, and often times get backed up for a solid month! Prepare for this and get all repairs completed quickly so that your child has an instrument at the start of the school year.**

COMMUNICATION

- ☐ Communication is vital for large programs to be successful. We are 300+ members strong and use multiple avenues to keep everybody informed.
- ☐ Join Remind101- download the app on any phone and join the class using the code @6wind22
- ☐ Follow us on our Facebook page
- ☐ Check our band website often.
- ☐ If you wish to be a volunteer/chaperone on any of our band trips or events, please make sure your CCS volunteer card is up-to-date. If you need to apply to be a volunteer or chaperone, please go to the link below and complete the background check and the volunteer paperwork.

<https://www.cabarrus.k12.nc.us/ccsvolunteer>

Welcome again to the HRMS band family! If you need anything please feel free to contact us at any time!

Sincerely,

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