

HARRIS ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL BANDS

Welcome French Horn players and congratulations on being selected to play the French Horn in the 2021-2022 beginning band at Harris Road Middle School. This letter outlines band fees, 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

- ☐ Double French Horn 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).
- ☐ **Rotor Oil** (not valve oil) and Tuning Slide Grease
- ☐ Polishing Cloth
- ☐ **Mouthpiece:** Holton Farkas MDC
- ☐ Essential Elements Book 1 for French Horn (Yellow Book)
- ☐ Small pack of sanitizing wipes to be kept in pencil case for student use.



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 gage 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 DOUBLE FRENCH HORN

- ☐ Renting—It is highly recommended that beginners rent their Double French Horns through **Music and Art's** 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 French Horn. They will pull up my recommendation sheet and get you squared away with the correct books and brands. 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 Double French Horn and not rent, brand is EVERYTHING. I recommend Holton, Yamaha, Jupiter, and Mack Brass. 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 (silver or lacquer only, not that blue French Horn on eBay).
- ☐ Used Instruments→ Please email me before you buy and we will provide our professional opinion on the brand/model. 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.
- ☐ Financial Need→ If there is a financial need, HRMS has school-owned french horns for students to use. Students who use school-owned instruments must sign a rental agreement and return it to me before they are allowed to take the instrument home or use it in class. They must also purchase their own mouthpiece and pay a one-time rental fee of \$50.

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 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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