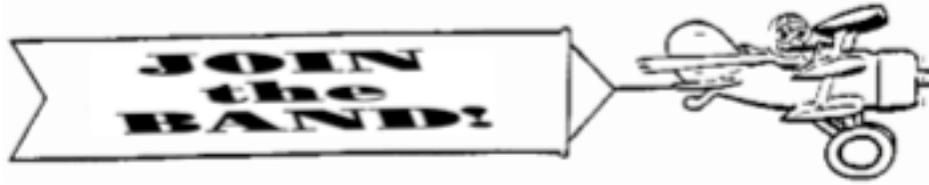




West Chester Area School District
 Department of Music Education
 Dr. Mark Belczyk, Band Director (mbelczyk@wcasd.net)



Your child recently observed an in-school video demonstration of the band instruments. If you would like to see the demonstration for yourself, click on this link: <https://youtu.be/3FXbkxbIeD4>

The West Chester Area School District provides beginning group instruction to interested fourth and fifth grade students. Students who choose to enroll in the band program receive one weekly group lesson, usually for 30 minutes, during normal school hours. With the permission of the band director, the student may also participate in the school band concerts. The instruments included in the band program are as follows:

Trombone, Trumpet, Baritone Horn, Alto Sax, Clarinet, Flute, or Percussion (Drums)

LESSONS WILL BEGIN THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 5, 2020.

All students should have the following materials for their first lesson:

1. An instrument in good working and playing condition. Instruments can be rented from area music stores for a “trial period” of 3-4 months. A list of local music stores can be found on the back of this page, however you can rent your instrument from any music store. For the best selection of instruments, contact the stores as soon as possible. Instruments not rented should be checked to make sure they are in proper playing condition.
2. Lesson book, “**Accent On Achievement, Book One**” for their particular instrument. Percussion students are *only* required to have “**Roy Burns Elementary Drum Method.**” A music stand is needed for ALL students!!!
3. Obtain the following materials for your particular instrument:
 - FLUTE: Handkerchief or cloth for cleaning.
 - CLARINET: 3 or more reeds (strength #2), cleaning swab, cork grease, and reed guard
 - SAXOPHONE: 3 or more reeds (strength #2), cleaning swab, cork grease, reed guard, and neck strap.
 - BRASS INST.: Valve oil (slide oil for trombones.)
 - PERCUSSION: Snare Drum Kit (includes snare drum, drum stand, sticks, and practice pad – the practice pad should be the large black rubber kind that fits on the top of the snare drum)

If your child would like to join the band program, please fill out a short Registration Form:

<https://forms.gle/t84A6GYn63QFtG9fA>

Please fill out the form by SEPTEMBER 18, 2020.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Belczyk by email: mbelczyk@wcasd.net

(Information about Instrument Selection and Rental on next page...)

SUGGESTIONS FOR INSTRUMENT BRAND SELECTION

In recent years, we have seen students entering the band program with musical instruments built by non-traditional manufacturers. Although they may look just as nice and shiny as those found in our recommended music stores, they generally do not perform or hold up as well. Also, instruments purchased second-hand at yard sales or from online auctions frequently require expensive repairs to perform well. Even brand new instruments purchased from online auctions can be manufactured with inferior materials and tend to break down more often, and replacement parts can be impossible to find. Be especially wary of instruments on eBay that claim to be “Band Director Recommended”. That is often a come-on to make you feel more confident about your purchase.

Using non-traditional manufacturers often results in the malfunction of the instrument, and teachers have to interrupt music lessons to make adjustments or attempt a quick repair. More serious repairs might involve a trip to the repair shop, and you may be without your instrument for a week or more, if it can be repaired at all. **More importantly, it can cause unnecessary frustration for our beginner band students.** Brands with a proven track record include: Armstrong, Artley, Bach, Besson, Buescher, Bundy, Buffet, CB Percussion, Conn, Gemeinhardt, Getzen, Holton, Jupiter, King, Leblanc, Ludwig, Pearl, Selmer, Sonor, Tama, UMI, Vito and Yamaha.

For your convenience, the list below contains some of the area music stores that you can contact regarding the lease/purchase of band instruments. The local music stores stand behind their instruments, and most are willing to perform priority repairs or provide loaner instruments for their rental customers. If you have any questions, please contact me by email: mbelczyk@wcasd.net

Beam’s Music 480 Lancaster Ave., Malvern, PA 610.647.3647 http://beamsmusic.com	Music & Arts (Exton) 181 W. Lincoln Hwy, Exton, PA 484-875-0101 http://www.musicarts.com
Taylor’s Music 116 W. Gay Street, West Chester, PA 610.696.1812 https://www.taylorsmusic.com/	Zeswitz Music 100 Gibraltar Road, Reading, PA 610.406.4300 http://www.zeswitzmusic.com/

WCASD does not endorse, nor does it have any exclusive contracts with any of the vendors listed above. However, as a Music Department, our educators have reviewed the quality of instrument and services provided for each of the above vendors and are comfortable recommending their services to our families.