

# THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT OF CRANDALL ISD

Kait Steele, *Director of Bands, CMS*

Scott Anderson, *Director of Bands, HMS*



Dear Beginner Band Parent,

Welcome to the Crandall Band Program! We're excited to have your child join our beginner class and look forward to providing a great musical experience.

This packet explains how to obtain your child's instrument and books.

*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 a part of the free and reduced lunch program, please see the attached information page to be a part of the Pirate Instrument Program.*

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

- Students must have their instrument and books by **Wednesday, August 27, 2025**, unless other arrangements are made with a director.
- A \$40 band fee is due by **Friday, October 3, 2025**, covering a shirt, supplies, equipment use, and basic repairs throughout the year.

For the first two 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 quickly once all students have instruments in hand.

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

Thank you,

Kait Steele  
ksteele@crandall-isd.net

Scott Anderson  
(no district email yet, TBA)

# What does my student need for band class?

If you're new to this process, please read the following pages carefully. This page lists what each student needs; the rest explain how to get the items, including suggested instrument brands and models. We're happy to answer any questions.

## Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, and Trombone Students

- Will rent or purchase their own instrument and mouthpiece\*
- Will purchase Essential Elements for Band Book 1 (for their instrument)
- Will purchase a black 1" 3-ring binder with pockets and 5 dividers

## Oboe, Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, Tenor Sax, French Horn, Baritone, and Tuba Students

- Instrument will be provided by the school
- Will purchase their own mouthpiece\* (Horn, Baritone, Tuba only)
- Will purchase Essential Elements for Band Book 1 (for their instrument)
- Will purchase a black 1" 3-ring binder with pockets and 5 dividers

## Percussion Students

- Will rent or purchase their own percussion pad/bell kit (see photo; it's important that the kit includes a pad, bell set, stand, sticks and mallets)\*
- Will purchase Fresh Approach to Snare Drum and Fresh Approach to Mallet Percussion books



\*Can be provided through Pirate Instrument Program pending completion of form and qualification verification.

# Where do I rent or purchase an instrument?

Here are 2 recommended places to buy or lease quality beginner instruments, all offering warranties. You can also check with friends, family, marketplace, or pawn shops. If you're unsure about a brand or model, email us—many cheap options can be unreliable or incompatible. If purchasing a used instrument from a pawn shop or marketplace, we recommend having it serviced by a music repair shop to ensure it is in proper “playing condition”. Used, high-quality instruments will serve your beginner better than cheap, new instruments from unreliable retailers.

## Ellis County Music Center

Contact Blake Starkey at: [blake.starkey@elliscountymusiccenter.com](mailto:blake.starkey@elliscountymusiccenter.com)  
<https://www.elliscountymusiccenter.com/rental-application>  
972.937.5300

Will be at Crandall Middle School on Tuesday, August 19, 2025\*  
from 5 – 7 PM to rent and sell instruments, band books and accessories.

You can also rent your instrument on the Ellis County Music Center website. Instruments rented from the website or over the phone from Ellis County will be delivered directly to the school. See the above link or QR code:



\*date and time subject to change

**Sweetwater Online**  
**(for all instruments)**  
[www.sweetwater.com](http://www.sweetwater.com)

## Where do I purchase band books?

Most of the band books can be found at Ellis County Music Center (retail location and online). You can also try the following websites: Amazon, Pender’s Music, J.W. Pepper Music.

*Welcome  
To  
Band!*

## Rent Your Instrument Online



- Step 1: Visit [www.elliscountymusiccenter.com](http://www.elliscountymusiccenter.com)
- Step 2: Select Instrument Rental from the menu bar
- Step 3: Select Band Rental Application

Scan the QR code  
to get started!

**WE HAVE SEVERAL ONLINE OPTIONS TO FIT YOUR NEED.** We offer rentals with supply packages for each of the student provided instruments as well as complete supply packages for school owned instruments. Whatever your needs, we have the flexibility to make it simple and easy. Payment plans for supplies are also available for a limited time so don't delay!

**WE MAKE SURE YOUR STUDENT IS SET UP FOR SUCCESS!** We work closely with your directors to ensure that each supply package has all the necessary, and correct items for each instrument.

**WE OFFER NEW AND PRE-OWNED INSTRUMENTS.** Don't wait! Gently Used and Used instruments are in high demand and go fast. *It's very important to reserve your instrument early if you want to take advantage of the lower monthly prices on used instruments.*

**WHAT IF SOMETHING BREAKS?** Each rental contract comes with a maintenance and repair agreement. If something goes wrong with the instrument, we will pick it up, repair it, and deliver it back to the school. The agreement does not cover loss, theft, or abuse.

**WORRY FREE RENTALS!** Rental contracts are month-to-month and can be cancelled at anytime with no penalty after the first 3 months. The automatic monthly payment includes the base rental, plus maintenance, plus tax. A credit inquiry is required for approval of the rental application.

**WHAT IF I WANT TO PURCHASE THE INSTRUMENT?** 100% of the base rental paid each month can be applied to the purchase. Ownership is transferred to the customer once the full payment amount has been received.

**NO UNNECESSARY TRIPS!** All instruments and supplies will be delivered to the student's school. In some cases, it may be several days into the school year before the student receives their items. Please check with your directors about their timeline for distribution.

**Thank you for choosing Ellis County Music Center!**

*Family Owned and Operated since 1994*

# Bienvenidos A ¡Banda!

## Alquile su instrumento en línea



Paso 1: Visita: [www.elliscountymusiccenter.com](http://www.elliscountymusiccenter.com)

Paso 2: Seleccione: Instrument Rentals & Supply Packages

Paso 3: Seleccione: Band Rental Application

¡Escanee el código  
QR para comenzar!

**TENEMOS VARIAS OPCIONES QUE SE ADAPTAN A SUS NECESIDADES** Ofrecemos paquetes de suministros para cada uno de los instrumentos alquilados y para los instrumentos de propiedad de la escuela. Sean cuales sean sus necesidades, tenemos la flexibilidad para hacerlo simple y fácil. Los planes de pago de suministros también están disponibles por tiempo limitado para los que ordenan temprano!

**¡NOS ASEGURAMOS QUE SU ESTUDIANTE ESTÉ PREPARADO PARA EL ÉXITO!** Trabajamos en estrecha colaboración con sus directores para garantizar que cada paquete de suministros tenga todos los elementos necesarios y correctos para cada instrumento.

**OFRECEMOS INSTRUMENTOS NUEVOS Y SEMINUEVOS.** ¡No espere! Los instrumentos usados y seminuevos tienen una gran demanda y se van rapido. Es muy importante reservar su instrumento temprano si desea aprovechar los precios más bajos de los instrumentos usados.

**¿Y SI ALGO SE QUEBRA?** Cada contrato de alquiler viene con un contrato de mantenimiento y reparación. Si algo sale mal con el instrumento, lo recogeremos, lo repararemos y lo devolveremos a la escuela. El acuerdo no cubre pérdida, robo o abuso.

**¡ALQUILERES SIN PREOCUPACIONES!** Los contratos de alquiler son mensuales y se pueden cancelar en cualquier momento sin penalización después de los primeros 3 meses. El pago mensual automático incluye el instrumento, mantenimiento, y impuestos. Se requiere una consulta de crédito para aprobar su solicitud de alquiler.

**¿Y SI QUIERO COMPRAR EL INSTRUMENTO?** 100% del pagado base del alquiler se puede aplicar a la compra. La propiedad se transfiere al cliente una vez que se ha recibido el total del pago.

**¡Gracias por elegir Ellis County Music Center!**

*Propiedad y operación familiar desde 1994*

# Suggested Instrument List

Here are the recommended brands and models for our students. Other options may be acceptable, but some instruments can limit your child's progress. Please contact us before purchasing a different brand. Suggested mouthpieces are listed and included by Ellis County Music Center; if buying elsewhere, ensure you get the correct one.

## Flute

- Yamaha YFL-222
- Pearl 525
- Jupiter JFL700A

## Clarinet

- Selmer CL301
- 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**

## Percussion

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

## Trumpet (no cornets)

- Yamaha YTR-2330
- Yamaha YTR-4335GII
- Bach TR202 or TR301
- **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**

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

The Pirate Instrument Program (PIP) helps beginner band students in the NSLP (National School Lunch Program that provides free or reduced lunch to students) get instruments and mouthpieces. All beginner instruments are eligible, provided the student is enrolled in the NSLP.

PIP students may use a district-owned instrument throughout their time in band, checked out yearly with a commitment to proper care. 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/bUuZWWjZUuWcign9>

# 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.
- **All wind students will also need a black 1" 3-ring binder with pockets**
- Percussionists will need both the **Fresh Approach to Snare Drum** and the **Fresh Approach to Keyboard Percussion** books.
- All books can be purchased at Ellis County Music Center, 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, beginner book, and a black binder. 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, beginner book, and a black binder. Students will purchase these items or utilize the Pirate Instrument Program.
- All band members will pay a band fee of \$40 by October 3.

*How can I pay my band fees?*

The preferred method for paying fees is using Crandall's RevTrak payment portal. <https://crandall-isd.revtrak.net/> > Fine Arts > Middle School Band (Campus) > BAND FEES/DUES - CAMPUS

*Do beginners have after school rehearsals and events?*

Beginner band has no after-school rehearsals, but the band hall is open most days for 30 minutes after school for practice. We hold 2–3 events per year outside school hours, including 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.