

# THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT OF CRANDALL ISD

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Dear Beginner Band Parent,

We would like to welcome you and your child to the Crandall Band Program. We are extremely excited about our incoming beginner class. We look forward to providing a fantastic music experience for your child.

This packet details how to obtain an instrument and books for your child.

*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.

- All students should have their instrument and books by Tuesday, **August 27, 2024** unless previous arrangements have been made with a band director.
- There is a \$40 fee to be in band that is due on **October 4, 2024**. The band fee covers a student's band shirt, reeds, oils, equipment usage and basic repairs.

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 fast once all students have instruments in hand.

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

Thank you,

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# What does my student need for band class?

If this is a new process for you, please read everything on the following pages. We are here to answer any questions you may have about the details in this packet. This page is a simplified list of what each student needs for band class. The following pages explain how to get these items, with some suggestions for instrument makes and models.

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

- Will rent or purchase their own instrument\*
- Will purchase Essential Elements for Band Book 1 (for their instrument)
- Will purchase Scale and Rhythm Chunks Book (for their instrument)

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

- Instrument will be provided by the school
- Will purchase their own mouthpiece\*
- Will purchase Essential Elements for Band Book 1 (for their instrument)
- Will purchase Scale and Rhythm Chunks Book (for their instrument)

## 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
- Will purchase Scale and Rhythm Chunks Book (for percussion)



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

## Where do I rent or purchase an instrument?

Below we have listed a few places to buy a beginner instrument for your beginner band student. These companies provide great instruments with purchasing and leasing plans. They also provide warranties on all of the instruments that they sell.

We encourage you to check with friends and family, local newspapers, and pawn shops for instruments as well. Feel free to email us to ask about other brands and models that might work well for your beginner. Beware of any instrument brands or prices that seem too good to be true. Many of those brands are unreliable and may work on a different tonal system.

### Brook Mays

Contact Ellis Smith at: [ellismith@brookmays.com](mailto:ellismith@brookmays.com)  
<https://www.brookmays.com>  
945.234.2263

Will be at Crandall Middle School on Tuesday, August 20, 2024  
from 5 – 7 PM to rent and sell instruments, band books and accessories.

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



### Woodwind Brasswind Online (for all instruments)

[www.wwbw.com](http://www.wwbw.com)

### 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 music stores (retail locations and online). You can also try the following websites: Amazon, Pender's Music, J.W. Pepper Music.

# Suggested Instrument List

The following is a list of brands and model numbers that we recommend for our students. There are some other acceptable choices, but only a few. Certain instruments can keep your child from reaching their full potential, and in some cases hold them back considerably. We ask that you contact us before buying another type of instrument. Brook Mays will be including the suggested beginner mouthpiece with most of the instruments. However, in the case that you purchase an instrument elsewhere, the suggested mouthpiece is listed next to the instrument.

## 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**

## 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**

## Percussion

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

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

The Pirate Instrument Program (PIP) provides assistance in obtaining instruments and mouthpieces for Crandall's beginner band students. If your student is a part of the NSLP (National School Lunch Program that provides free or reduced lunch to students), you may enroll your student in the PIP. The program is open to beginner students of all instruments, provided they are a part of the NSLP.

Students that are enrolled in the program will be able to continue using a district-owned instrument through all of their years in the Crandall Band program. The instrument will be checked-out on a yearly basis. Students will agree to keep the instrument in good condition.

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/bUuZWWJjZUuWcign9>

# 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. Percussionists will need both the **Fresh Approach to Snare Drum** and the **Fresh Approach to Keyboard Percussion** books. All books can be purchased at your local music store, or online retailers such as Amazon.

**All band students** will also need the [Scale and Rhythm Chunks book](#) for their instrument.

*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 and beginner books. 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 and beginner books. Students will purchase these items or utilize the Pirate Instrument Program.
- All band members will pay a band fee of \$40 by October 4.

*How can I pay my band fees?*

The preferred method for paying band fees is using Crandall's RevTrak payment portal.

*Do beginners have after school rehearsals and events?*

We do not have after school rehearsals for beginners, however the band hall is open after school most days for 30 minutes if students would like to practice. We have 2-3 events per year outside of the school day (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.

[www.crandallband.org](http://www.crandallband.org)