

# Beginning Band Information

Congrats! Your future musician has finished their 5th grade year and is headed to middle school. With this transition comes an amazing opportunity to join the Bigfork Music Program, which includes both band and choir. You don't have to choose, you can do both!

## Step 1: Contact Mrs. Tunnell

After you have decided to join the amazing band program (yay!), or find you have questions about the program and what it entails, email Mrs. Tunnell for more information.

[rtunnell@bfsd38.org](mailto:rtunnell@bfsd38.org). This is a great time to ask questions and get info about the future.

## Step 2: Find an Instrument

~If your student is interested in joining band, a few things need to happen this summer. Finding a quality instrument is a top priority.

**Instruments for Beginning Band Include:** Clarinet, Flute, Trumpet, Trombone, Alto Saxophone, Baritone, Tuba and Percussion (mallets/snare.) French Horn is also an option but we need to chat about that if you are interested as it is more difficult to start on than most instruments.

If you have an instrument already at home, that is a great instrument to consider playing! Need more info or help deciding on which instrument to play? Just email me and I can help you. I need to know what instrument you are choosing to play-I can't have a band of all saxes! I hope to talk to the kids before school is out but wanted to get this conversation going :)

~First place to check is with relatives! Check under beds, storage units, attics and closets of grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. If that doesn't do the trick, head over to **Flathead Woodwind and Brass** in Evergreen (over by JoAnn Fabrics) and talk to Dale or contact **Morgenroth Music** in Missoula. Dale or the folks at Morgenroth can both "rent-to-own" quality instruments at an affordable monthly price, and repairs are included in the rental agreement!

~Caution! I can't legally tell you brands to stay away from so if you are shopping online, PLEASE ask me, or Dale, or any other informed person. I can tell you this, if it's too good to be true, it is. If it comes in blue, green, red or purple, don't buy it! If it says "comes with a case, gloves, oil, etc..." don't do it! Also, a good quality used instrument is far better than a new "off brand" instrument. Most of these "Amazon" instruments can't be repaired, are very difficult to play and are out of tune. ISO's (Instrument Shaped Objects) make early success difficult to achieve and we want our musicians to play with confidence and produce beautiful sounds right away.

~Quality Brands: Yamaha, Conn, King, Gemeinhardt, Selmer, Bach, Getzen, Cannonball, Buffet, Bundy.

This is such an exciting time! Band meets everyday in 6th grade so the progress you will hear throughout the year is amazing. If you have any questions or concerns, just email me. I am happy to answer any questions you have and look forward to a fantastic year of music making!

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