

SUPPLEMENTAL MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

Private lessons are strongly encouraged for all students (beginner through advanced) but are **not** required for any student to participate in the music program. If there is a desire to take lessons, consult an instrumental music teacher for private teacher information.

Due to scheduling at the middle school level, sixth graders are only able to sign up for sixth grade performing groups. Every attempt is made to provide additional opportunities for advanced students in our classes.

AAPS Summer Music Program -Ann Arbor Public Schools offers a Summer Music Program at area schools. This is an opportunity for 5th graders to maintain acquired skills and build new ones while meeting new friends! Applications are available in May online through AAPS Rec. and Ed and may also be made available at the 5th grade instrumental spring concerts.

RECOMMENDED INSTRUMENT BRANDS

Avoid shopping at retail stores (Sears, Penney's, Sam's Club etc.) for instruments. Stick with reputable music dealers. Buying a used instrument is a great option if you stick with a brand name and the instrument is in good playing condition.

BRANDS TO CONSIDER :

- Flute:** Yamaha (YSL 225 S), Emerson, Armstrong, Gemeinhardt, Dean, Jupiter, Pearl.
- Bb Soprano Clarinet:** Buffet B-12, Yamaha, LeBlanc, Selmer, Vito, Bundy.
- Alto Saxophone:** Yamaha, Conn, Keilworth and Selmer
- Trumpet:** (preferred over cornet)- order Monel Valves if an option. Yamaha (YTR2335), Bach, Holton, Conn
- Trombone:** Holton, Bach, Yamaha, Conn, and Olds
- Percussion:** Percussion Kit includes Snare Drum or 8 inch Remo Drum Pad or Pro-Mark X-Pad (new style drum pad that has beads in it so it sounds and responds like a snare drum) with stand for home practice. Brands are Pearl, Yamaha, or Tama. Vic Firth SD 1 General Drum Sticks. Xylophone/Bell Mallets (Mike Balter MB10R or comparable) transported in a stick bag.
- Violin-** A smart option for string players is to "rent to own" which allows for sizing adjustments as the student grows. Quality string instruments are available in a variety of prices at Shar Music in Ann Arbor – see below.

MUSIC SUPPLIES

All instrumentalists will need a music stand for home practice and visible identification on the instrument case.

Flute : Cleaning rod and small soft cloth

Clarinet and saxophone players will need 4 reeds at all times. The school can not supply reeds. Reeds are cheaper to purchase in boxes of 10 than individually. Recommended brands are Rico **ROYAL** (Royal only-blue box), Vandoren, Mitchell Lurie and LaVoz. Students will also need to have cork grease (get Alisyn or Vandoren), a swab, mouthpiece cap, reed holder and cleaning brush.

Brass players will need to have valve oil (Holton oil is a good brand), slide grease, and cleaning snake and brush. Trombones use slide cream or slide-o-mix (avoid slide oil). Trumpet, French horn, Baritone, Tuba may use Alisyn synthetic oil or comparable high quality oil. French Horn, Baritone, Tuba will also need a mouthpiece pouch to carry your mouthpiece.

String Players will need to have rosin and cloth cleaning rag. Violin and viola players should have a shoulder rest and an extra set of strings. It is recommended that string players use steel strings with a fine tuner on each string. Cello and string bass players need a stick, strap or rock stop to hold their endpins.

Percussionists will need to have a stick bag to carry their mallets/drum sticks. Local music stores carry the "official" AAPS percussion equipment. Put permanent ID on the sticks/stick bag where it will not rub off.

Instrument Music Dealers

Music Go-Round
Oak Valley Centre (near Target)
662-1080
Anderson Music (rental program)
650 N. Telegraph – Dearborn, Mi 48128
1-800-385-7022
Peeler Music (Drums)
Toledo, Ohio
www.peelerdrumcenter.com
1-419-381-0300

Psarianos (string instruments)
1-800-697-viol
Shar Music (string instruments)
2465 So. Industrial, A2
866-742-7261
www.sharmusic.com
Instrument Wholesalers
The Woodwind and Brasswind
1-800-348-5003
wwwbw.com
Interstate Music 1-800-837-BAND
www.interstatemusic.com

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MUSIC INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OF INCOMING 6th GRADERS SPRING 2011

GENERAL INFORMATION

- The Slauson Middle School music department consists of band, choir and orchestra for 6th grade. Groups/classes are grade based, not ability based. 6th graders choose one of the following music classes.
 - **Band:** If you play a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument, you will be in a band class.
 - **Orchestra:** If you play violin, viola, cello, or bass you will be in orchestra.
 - **Choir:** If you sing, you will be in choir.
 - **Schedule:** Students who play an instrument or who sing in choir will alternate their music class with gym during the same class period. Some students will have music on Monday and Thursday and have gym on Tuesday and Friday, while others will have music on Tuesday and Friday and gym on Monday and Thursday. On Wednesday you will alternate music and gym each week.
 - **Advisory Choir:** For students who play in band or orchestra, we may also be able to offer an opportunity for you to sing through Advisory Choir, which meets once a week during your advisory time. Those who elect choir are also welcome to sing in Advisory Choir where there is different repertoire.
- Slauson families will receive a Slauson Music Calendar before school opens. The calendar will contain dates, times and places for concerts.**

IMPORTANT INSTRUMENT INFORMATION

Not all instruments are provided in middle school -

-In middle school, the following instruments are provided by the school district: oboe, bassoon, tenor sax, baritone sax, alto and bass clarinet, French horn, baritone, tuba, viola, cello, and string bass.

-Instruments **not** provided in middle school: flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, cornet/trumpet, trombone, violin, and **percussion bell kit**. These instruments are available to rent or purchase through music dealers. If purchasing or renting an instrument is not an option for you, please see your child's middle school director for options. We will not exclude anyone from participation in band or orchestra due to financial need.

SWITCHING INSTRUMENTS (Teacher Permission Needed)

Many times a student is considering playing a different instrument without really knowing what is involved in order to be successful. Sixth graders meet in larger groups with more varied instruments as compared to their fifth grade experience. Sixth grade band/orchestra is a continuation from fifth grade instrumental and not a beginning class. For these reasons, there are instrument changes that are encouraged at the middle school and there are instrument changes that are discouraged. **Encouraged** instrument changes in middle school involve playing instruments not offered to fifth graders due to size, difficulty, or expense. These instruments greatly enhance the sound of the full band or string orchestra. Examples of encouraged switches: cello to string bass, baritone/trombone to tuba, Bb clarinet to bass clarinet etc. These changes are within the instrument family or group and are relatively easy for the student to do within the 6th grade band or orchestra class. Sixth grade instrumental students will be introduced to these instruments as well as others such as the double reeds (oboe, bassoon).

-Instrument changes across instrument families (cornet to percussion, violin to flute etc.) are **not encouraged** due to their poor success rate. Changes of this nature involve the use of different techniques making it difficult for a young student to be successful in a large group setting. **In the event your child is anticipating an instrument change of this type, it is important for you to discuss the proposed change with the fifth grade instrumental teacher and the middle school director *before* school is out in June.** You will be informed of the steps that are necessary to take in order for your child to be successful in sixth grade band or orchestra on this instrument. Steps may include private instruction to provide a good foundation on the new instrument prior to the beginning of the school year. *It is also important to note that not all instruments are available to switch into in middle school due to balance requirements.*

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