

Dear 6th grade parent,

Congratulations! Your child has been selected to play **percussion** this upcoming year. We are thrilled that he/she will be in our program, and we are looking forward to working with your child for years to come. Please take note of our two concert dates this year: **Monday, December 7th** and **Monday, May 3rd**. More information about our concerts will be communicated at a later date.

We took many things into consideration when selecting your child for this instrument. First, we asked each child to select the top three instruments that they would enjoy playing. Then we asked the student to try out the instruments to see which would suit them the best. Many times, we are able to tell if the child has a chance of success on this instrument by our simple tryout. Also, we looked at the instrumentation of our band to make it balanced. For example, a concert band with 35 saxophones and 3 trombones would NOT sound good. In the case of the most competitive instruments, we simply chose the students who had the best tryouts.

Just like any major purchase, it is important that you know what to buy. Some percussion brands are excellent for beginners, but some are terrible. If you buy your child a bad instrument, they could develop some wrong habits which are difficult to correct. Additionally, these instruments chronically need repair with parts that are unavailable or are very expensive. In general, you will get what you pay for.

We recommend **Mapex**, **Yamaha** or **Pearl** brand percussion kits. You may rent or buy these instruments at music stores in the area. (See next paragraph for our recommended store, Palen Music Center.) We strongly recommend that you acquire a quality instrument for your child. In our opinion, you should not purchase an instrument from a retail/big-box store, as these instruments are of low quality and will cause problems in the future. If you choose to look to other places for an instrument (Ebay, online, etc.) please let us know and we will be happy to look at the website to make sure that you are getting a good brand at a good deal.

Palen Music will host an Instrument Rental Night on Monday, August 17th at 7:30 PM at the Jenks High School Performing Arts Center auditorium (NW area of JHS campus) to rent/sell percussion instruments. Palen Music essentially brings their store to the school for your convenience. You may rent or purchase an instrument from them at that time if you choose to do so. Band books and other supplies will also be available. If you cannot make the meeting, you also have the option of renting/buying through palenmusic.com. If you do this, Palen Music will bring the instrument to the school, and we will deliver it to your child.

Supplies required for percussion class:

Found through any music store or at school rental night:

1. **Yamaha** Percussion Bell Kit - Model # SPK-285R or **Mapex** Percussion Kit - Model # MPK32PC (comes with a keyboard, stand, and a mini practice pad)
2. **Innovative Percussion** Stick Bag - Model # SB3 with the following in it: A pair of **Vic Firth SD1** snare sticks, **IP 240** marimba mallets, **IP 902** bell/ xylophone mallets and **Vic Firth T1** timpani mallets
3. **Evans RealFeel** 12" 2-sided Practice Pad - Model # RF12D
4. **Yamaha** Concert Snare Stand - Model # SS-665 or **Pearl** Snare Drum Stand - Model # S710 (used for holding the 12" practice pad during class)
5. "Tradition of Excellence" Percussion Method Book 1 - Model # W61PR

Found at other stores:

6. 3-ring binder (1 inch)
7. Page protectors (25 pack)
8. Pencils

Optional supplies but highly recommended:

9. **Boss TU-30** Metronome & Tuner - Model # TU-30 or **Korg TM-70** Metronome & Tunes - Model # TM70BK

Our first day with instruments will tentatively be Wednesday, August 19th. Students do not need to bring instruments until that time.

We STRONGLY urge you to NOT allow your child to play before they receive our instruction. It is easy to establish poor habits at the onset, and it is very difficult to correct them afterwards.

Please email me if you have any questions, I am always willing to help!

Sincerely,

Mark Stevenson - Percussion Instructor, mark.stevenson@jenksps.org