

Ramay Beginning Band Information

How can I become involved in band?

Your student has already done the hard part: Instrument testing! Now all you need to do is get the recommended instrument and accessories and you will be ready to start band.

When do we need to have an instrument?

You don't need to do anything until **Wednesday, August 14th** when we have our instrument rental night. We will begin instruction with the instruments the next day. Please do not get an instrument before the rental night. We have very specific requirements for equipment, and by getting your instrument and accessories at our meeting, you ensure your student has exactly what they need for class the next day.

Mark your calendars now!

BAND INSTRUMENT NIGHT

Wednesday, August 14th School Cafeteria

Flute and Clarinet 6:00 p.m.

Trumpet, Trombone, & Percussion at 7:00 p.m.

What else will be discussed at the instrument night?

Parents will have the opportunity to meet the directors, see the High School band facility, and hear important information about your child's participation in the band program. It is very important that every parent attend the meeting.

How much will it cost?

We encourage you to rent your instrument for at least a year. This keeps the cost down and your money is going toward the payoff of the instrument, interest-free. After comparing brands, availability, prices, and rental plans, we have partnered with **Palen Music Center** to do our band instrument night. They have a representative who visits the school every week to ensure all instruments are in working order. We strongly recommend you acquire a quality instrument for your child. Do not search pawn shops for a bargain and avoid cheap "toy" instruments found at big box retailers as these instruments do not meet our specifications and many times cannot be repaired. The best way to ensure success is to provide a high-quality instrument and then ensure that productive practice happens at home on a regular basis. Palen Music Center has the instrument brands and supplies we recommend and has a very flexible rental program. Rental prices range from \$25-\$40 per month, depending on if the instrument is new or used.

My Mom has Uncle Joe's old clarinet up in the closet. Can I play that?

All used instruments must be approved by one of the band directors. It is very frustrating for students to try to play an instrument that is in poor condition. Young music students cannot determine the problems they're having if an instrument is in poor condition – they just think they're not good at it, and tend to quit. At our band instrument night, Palen Music Center will have both new and quality-used instruments available for our kids.

Time Saver!

If you cannot attend the event on August 14th, we recommend you rent your instrument online at www.palenmusic.com.