

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the University Preparatory Wind Ensemble. I am very excited to have your child in the band program. Your child can look forward to a year of new challenges, new friends, new activities, and rewarding musical experiences. I believe participation in music will enhance your child's education and self-esteem, and will enrich your child's life throughout the school year and beyond.

This letter is designed to give you, as parents, the information you will need to ensure your child's success. I look forward to working with you and your child this year!

Wind Ensemble: This class is for students with prior instrumental music experience who wish to continue learning that instrument.

Students are to bring their instruments to school on Thursday, August 10th. Those students who do not have an instrument at this time need to get one as quickly as possible. If you have any questions about this please feel free to contact me.

If your child does not have an instrument yet, you may be wondering how to get one. Listed below are the area music stores. They offer rent to own programs, which is the best way to get an instrument.

Although I cannot recommend specific music stores, the following music stores sell, rent, and repair the instruments they carry. Other music stores, pawn shops, and retail stores sometimes have less expensive instruments, but they are often low-quality instruments which are not a good value, and some do not offer any kind of repair if something is wrong with the instrument. Please contact me if you have questions or need assistance.

Db Music & Sound 949-3838
12064 Jacaranda Ave. Suite A
Hesperia, CA 92345

Roll Over Beethoven Music Store 244-8822
16130 Main St
Hesperia, CA 92345

Recommended Instrument Brands: Choosing a musical instrument can be a difficult undertaking. Here is a partial listing of reputable brands and models. These

are brands that I have found to be reliable when put through years of use. If you encounter another brand that is not on the list, please feel free to contact me for assistance **before** you rent or purchase that instrument. Buyer Beware - if the price of an instrument sounds too good to be true, it probably is!

Flutes

Armstrong	Gemeinhardt	Selmer
Artley	Jupiter	Emerson
Pearl	Yamaha	

Clarinets

Armstrong	Jupiter	Yamaha
Artley	Selmer	Buffet
Vito		

Oboes

Armstrong	Jupiter	Yamaha
Artley	Selmer	Buffet
Vito		

Saxophones

Conn	Jupiter	Vito
King	Yamaha	Selmer

Trumpets, French Horn, Trombone and Baritone

Bach	Conn	King	
Blessing	Holton	Yamaha	Jupiter

Necessary Equipment: The following items are available at all local music stores and should be purchased when you rent or buy an instrument. Personnel at the music stores will be able to assist you with making these purchases. Reeds are about \$1.50 to \$2.50 each for clarinets and saxophones. Reeds for oboes/bassoons are about \$10.00 to \$25.00 each. Most of the other equipment can be purchased for \$5.00 to \$10.00. Each band book costs about \$6.00 to \$10.00.

Flutes: Cleaning rod, swab, name tag, and the following book *“Foundations For Superior Performance”*.

Clarinets: Cleaning swab, cork grease, six #2 1/2 or higher clarinet reeds, reed guards, name tag, and the following book *“Foundations For Superior Performance”*.

Oboes/bassoon: Cleaning swab, cork grease, 2 to 3 reeds, reed guards, name tag, and the following books *“Foundations For Superior Performance”*.

Saxophones: Mouthpiece cleaning swab, cork grease, six #2 or higher saxophone reeds, reed guard, name tag, and the following book *“Foundations For Superior Performance”*.

Trumpets/French Horn/Baritones/Tubas: Valve oil, mouthpiece brush, name tag, and the following books *“Foundations For Superior Performance”*.

Trombones: Slide oil, mouthpiece brush, name tag, and the following book *“Foundations For Superior Performance”*.

Percussion: Will need to purchase snare drum sticks and the following book *“Foundations For Superior Performance”*. They will also need to chip in to cover the cost of purchasing other mallets for other percussion equipment. (\$15 to \$20 per student)

All Students need to either purchase a tuner, or have a free app on their phone.

Special Note

Books for this class are available from Db Music & Sound.

Optional Equipment: The following equipment is optional and is available for your purchase at the music stores.

Folding Music Stand: This will enable students to practice at home with correct posture.

Metronome: Provides a steady beat for practice. This can be an app on their cell phone.
This is highly recommended for all students.

Tips for Success: Parents, in order for your child to succeed, encourage your child to

- 1 Bring instrument, equipment, book and their music to school each day.
2. Have a sharp pencil, with an eraser, on their stands at all times.
- 3 Be prepared for rehearsal by practicing the assigned music and exercises on a daily basis.
- 4 Instruments cases should be clearly marked with the student's name.
- 5 Music should be marked with the first and last name, and music is to only be marked in pencil (no erasable pens)
- 6 Throw trash in trash cans, not on the floor.
- 7 Instruments go home every day unless special arrangements are made in advanced.
- 8 Listen to your child practice and offer encouragement and praise.

Thank you for your support,

Dennis Harps