

Nouvel Catholic Central Elementary & Middle School Instrumental Music department

Dear Parents,

Your child has seen a demonstration of the Band Instruments. We are making available at this time a trial period to see how he/she may do on an instrument before you make a purchase. We are quite proud of the accomplishments of the instrumental program here at Nouvel Elementary & Middle School and look forward to your child's participation in this invaluable educational experience.

FAQ's!

Is there a charge for band instruction?

No, the instruction is free. Students furnish their own method books at a cost of about \$8.00 - \$11.00.

Are students required to furnish their own instruments?

Every student in band will need to have his/her own instrument for class. There are many ways to get an instrument for band. We want EVERYONE to have the opportunity to participate in the band and we will make every effort to help you find either a new or used instrument to use in class.

Rent to Own

Herter Music Center will be available to talk to you about their options for getting an instrument. It is recommended that you rent an instrument for a three-month trial period. Under this trial-rental plan, you have the option of purchasing the instrument, in which case your rental fee is applied to the purchase price, or returning the instrument at the end of the rental period. **INSTRUMENTS SHOULD BE RENTED BEFORE PURCHASING!**

Used Instruments

Many students have an instrument available from a friend or family member. This is an acceptable means of getting an instrument for class. However, if the instrument has not been played recently, be sure you take it to the music store or bring it to me to check over so it is ready for the first class. NCCCE does have a limited number of school instruments for rental as well. If you are interested, please speak to Ms. Goff. Please beware of "internet horns" and "great prices" at discount stores. Most of these instruments are of poor quality, and do not stand up to the rigors of student use. These instruments play out of tune and are usually impossible to repair. Beginners achieve more success using quality name brand instruments. Some acceptable brands of instruments are: Selmer, Bach, Eastman, Buffet, Bundy, Bliss, Leblanc, Gemeinhardt, Emerson, Armstrong, King, Conn, Pearl, Yamaha and Ludwig. If you have a question about a particular instrument brand, please ask.

What instruments are included in the band?

You may choose from your child any of the following instruments: Flute, Clarinet, Cornet or Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba and *Percussion. If you are interested in any other band instrument, please talk with Mrs. Burtch.

(*) Only 5 or 6 positions will be open for percussion. All percussionists will begin on bells.

How can I tell which instrument is best for my child?

We have found that a student usually does best on the instrument on which he/she is most interested. However, for a few, instrumentation (number of instruments needed), or physical limitations may dictate need for change. If undecided on the instrument, I will be glad to help you make a decision.

Is home practice required?

From 10 to 15 minutes of home practice per day, five days per week, is recommended for continued progress at the beginning level.

When do classes meet?

Students will meet for 45 minutes in like-instruments/families during the school day three times a week. The classes are held so students do not miss their academic classes. A schedule will be made up after instrumentation has been established.

I look forward to your child's participation!

Mrs. Ellen Burtch