

## **6th Grade Music Department**

Hello sixth grade music students. Your music teachers are looking forward to meeting all of you and working with you this year.

Safety precautions have been developed by the Kent County Health Department and will affect the safety of all students. These guidelines may change with incoming research. This is a fluid situation and the guidelines are a living document that teachers will follow as our situation changes. You will be informed as science gets updated.

Everyday, students are to sanitize their hands on their way into the music teaching space. Students need to wear their own masks while keeping their nose and mouth covered at all times. Music students will be spaced 6 feet apart, except for trombones who will be seated 9 feet apart. All students are to bring their own materials to class. Materials are not to be shared among students.

FHPS is supplying all music students with their own SmartMusic account (you'll be receiving information on how to create a student account -- don't worry, it will be very easy). SmartMusic will serve as a great in-class and remote learning tool, and it will be fun for the students to use! We will be spending ample time getting students acquainted with this program later in the school year.

### **Choir**

Students in choir will be seated in their classroom cohorts. All students in choir will be grouped solely with their homeblock and situated throughout the entire cafeteria. Each student will be required to bring their own pencil and wear their mask at all times. We'll sing outside when weather allows. Students can only use their own materials brought to class and cannot share. You can direct specific questions to Mrs. Kriekard ([pkriekard@fhps.net](mailto:pkriekard@fhps.net)).

### **Instrumental Music**

All instrumental music students are required to bring their own materials to class. Materials can not be shared. Students are to bring their own materials to and from class each day of music:

- Instruments are brought to school and taken home the day of class. Instruments are not to be left at school. First name, last name, and phone number are to be written on the tag attached to the instrument case.
- Wire Music Stand: please tape the child's first and last name on (1) the bottom leg or shaft of the stand, (2) top part of the stand, and (3) the stand storage bag.
- Pencil: always bring a pencil (keep in the instrument case or with the book)
- Method Book: first and last name on the cover of the book
  - Band- Tradition of Excellence Book 1 for your specific instrument
  - Orchestra- Essential Elements 2000 Book 1 for your specific instrument
- Supplies: students can not share supplies.
- Chairs will be disinfected at the end of every class.
- Disinfecting Instruments
  - Shared school-owned instruments will be sprayed with disinfectant/cleaner after each use with the proper amount of time to dry before the next use.
  - Cleaning routines will be shared with students when school begins, following the regulations of the Kent County Health Department
- Cello, Bass, and Baritone students who would possibly use a school-owned instrument are invited to bring their own instrument from home to use at school. This is a suggestion if transportation is possible.

## Obtaining an Instrument

- We recommend renting an instrument from a reputable, local music store. Rental costs vary by store depending on the quality of the instrument, reputation of their in-store repair facility, and whether the student's book and music stand are included as part of the rental package. In renting the instrument, often the payments build towards instrument ownership.
- A number of vendors will deliver the instrument, supplies and materials right to school in August so everything is ready for your student.
- Orchestra students: instruments delivered directly to school will be "set up" for the school year (finger placement tapes added, preliminary tuning completed, etc.)
- Be cautious and know exactly what you're looking for if shopping on Craigslist, Ebay or similar sites. Music teachers can assist. You can also get a repair estimate at local music stores for a used instrument. \*Sometimes a brand-new "deal" from an off-brand online seller may not hold up or perform well and your student's learning may suffer.
- We recommend you rent from a music store that specifically sells band and/or orchestra instruments. Often there is an online rental option that's easy to complete.
- If you have not been sized to a specific orchestra instrument, please complete this process in person at the music store where you plan to rent your instrument.

### Recommended Band Instrument Brands

Yamaha, Jupiter, Geimeinhardt & Armstrong (flute only), Selmer, Bach, and Conn. Percussion kits: CB, Pearl, Ludwig, and Yamaha. (Bundy and Buescher are older instruments.)

### Recommended Orchestra Instrument Brands

While there are many brands, Amati and Verona are good quality student-level instruments that many families choose to rent or purchase. Glaesel, Roth, Hoffman are other quality student brands. Regardless of the brand name, please avoid painted instruments or instruments made with plastic parts. In addition, the bow should have horsehair and not nylon hair. The bridge MUST be cut to fit the instrument - this is commonly NOT DONE when purchasing an inexpensive instrument outfit online. In the case of string instruments - especially those you see advertised for sale online - you get what you pay for. The 'Violin-Shaped Object' may seem like a great deal, but please beware. Your young player will appreciate an instrument that is properly adjusted and in the best possible playing condition. Please address any specific orchestra instrument questions to your student's orchestra teacher.

## Band

Band will be taught outside when the weather allows. Bell covers and face masks are required for students to play their instruments. Percussion students don't have bell covers, but are to only use their own mallets and wear a face mask. Students playing wind instruments are to cut a slit in the mask for the size of the mouthpiece to fit through the mask. Flute players will not cut their mask, but will keep the flute head joint behind the face mask.

Wind instruments must have the end shaped opening of their instrument covered. According to research, bell covers help limit the amount of water droplets, and air particles flying out of the instrument and into the open air. Thank you to the FHC Band Boosters for the volunteers who are sewing the bell covers for the students to have one. Families can also purchase the bell covers on-line at <https://www.mccormicksnet.com/default.asp>.

Supplies can not be shared. These supplies are included with your instrument rental. Brass instruments are to have their own valve oil, slide cream/oil and rotor oil with them. Brass students are to have a hand towel to empty their water key. Clarinet and oboe students are to have their own cork grease and reeds. All woodwind

students (including flutes) are to clean out the condensation with a swab. You can direct specific questions to Ms. Benjamin ([mbenjamin@fhps.net](mailto:mbenjamin@fhps.net))

### **Orchestra**

Students are to bring their own materials and music to class with their name on it. Accessories include: (1) rosin for the bow, (2) a cloth to wipe the extra rosin dust off of the instrument, (3) a shoulder rest (violin/viola) or rock stop (cello/bass), and (4) a portable tuner (optional). Students will not be sharing supplies. Some or all of these accessories will be included in your rental outfit, depending on the shop from which you rent your instrument. Other accessories may be purchased at the music store outright. You can direct specific questions to Mr. Pool([apool@fhps.net](mailto:apool@fhps.net)).

Sincerely,

Ms. Michelle Benjamin, Band  
Mrs. Pam Kriekard, Choir  
Mr. Pool, Orchestra