

# Join The Band



## **Sixth Grade Beginner Band Program** [printable version of this packet](#)

Welcome to the Dan F. Long Middle School Beginning Band! The band is the largest organization at Dan F. Long with a long tradition of excellence. This excellence continues to Newman Smith and Creekview High Schools. This web page/packet contains information passed-out at the beginner meeting **THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2011**.

The purpose of this meeting is to:

- confirm your child's instrument choice,
- discuss methods of obtaining the instrument, and to
- complete an information form.

***PLEASE* read the following pages of information before talking to one of the band directors.**

Schools feeding into Dan F. Long Middle School are:

- Furneaux Elementary
- Sheffield Intermediate
- Thompson Elementary

Dan F. Long Band Directors John Black, Belinda Parks as well as others who teach in the Newman Smith HS and Creekview HS area will be available to lead you through the evaluation process. All percussion students must be approved by Mr. Rob Parks. We will be happy to answer questions you may have regarding the band program in the Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD.

***Please do not buy anything until both parent(s) and student have met with a band director.***

## Frequently Asked Questions about Beginning Band

Before talking to one of the band directors, here are the answers to frequently asked questions about beginning band:

1. **My child has no music background. Can he be in band?** Yes. We teach the basic aspects of playing a musical instrument and continue this teaching process through high school.
2. **How often does band meet?** Band meets every day during school time.
3. **What is my schedule?** Classes meet every day. Common instruments are grouped together. This class counts as one of your three electives.
4. **Can I take Band and Choir?** Yes.
5. **Can my child participate in Athletics and Band?** Yes. The administration, coaches and band directors work to avoid conflicts so those students who wish to participate in both may do so.
6. **How do I sign-up for band?** Mark band as one of your elective options on your sixth grade registration form. We will hold a "**Come & Go**" Meeting on **Thursday, April 28 (5-9pm)** to tryout mouthpieces and answer questions. If you decide to not participate in band, your schedule can be changed to another elective.
7. **How many performances are required outside of school time?** Three: one in October, December, and May. These are graded and considered an extension of the classroom. The 2011-12 dates will be scheduled on the school calendar by July 1, 2011.
8. **Are there other performances?** Yes, there are two activities. The first is a **Concert Contest** for the full band at Sandy Lake Park, usually held on a Saturday in April. (This normally only takes about an hour, first thing in the morning.) The other activity is a **Solo Contest** held after school during May. Each student may perform a solo for one judge and have an opportunity to earn a medal for their performance. More information is sent home several weeks prior to the performance dates.
9. **What about practice time?** *Students must practice to be successful.* For normal progress, a minimum of 15-25 minutes at home practice is expected. Students may be asked to turn in a weekly practice report. Students who live in apartments (which restrict practice) may practice in a practice room at the school (either before or after school). As another option, special mutes are available for some instruments (at an additional cost) which would allow for quiet practicing. These mutes are not recommended unless absolutely necessary.
10. **What instruments are available to beginners?** Brass instruments include Cornet, F Horn, Trombone, Baritone/Euphonium, Tuba. Woodwind instruments include Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, and Bassoon. Percussion is also available, but piano experience is recommended. A test by Mr. Parks can certify a student's estimated proficiency at a percussion instrument, as well as

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other instruments. Other instruments will be evaluated by any band director working at the May meeting. (**All percussion students** must have a completed [application](#) on file on or before April 19. This form will be available at the Furneaux, Thompson, Sheffield, Dan F. Long, and this web site by April (Percussionists are expected to stand during the entire class period unless otherwise instructed by the director.)

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11. **Are there school instruments available?** Yes. The school provides F Horn, Baritone/Euphonium, and Tuba for students chosen to play these instruments. There is no rental fee for the use of these instruments. There are two expectations: 1) students purchase their own mouthpiece and maintenance equipment, and 2) parents provide insurance against theft and damage. Due to the limited number of available instruments, private lessons are encouraged.

Side note: Oboe and Bassoon are also school instruments, but these instruments are not always available, depending on the enrollment in the seventh and eighth grade. These instruments are more specialized and REQUIRE private lessons in order to be successful. (Pending the availability of funds, scholarships may be available to those on free or reduced lunch.)

12. **Can I play trumpet?** Sixth grade students play cornet rather than trumpet. Cornets are easier for a young person to hold and easier to find the center of the pitch. When the students get older, they will have the option of switching to a professional quality trumpet.
13. **Can I play saxophone?** Maybe. Saxophone is usually not available as a beginner instrument in the school district. If we have a saxophone teacher assigned to our campus, then it may be offered. Usually, students who have a desire to play sax must start on clarinet and apply for a saxophone position in six to eighteen months. A limited number of saxophone positions will be available.
14. **How do I get an instrument?** For your convenience, a music store is present at the **Thursday, April 28, 2011** meeting. You are not required to sign a contract, but it is important that you make arrangements **as soon as possible** for your child's instrument. Feel free to talk to the music dealer about all of the possible purchase/rental options. If you do close a contract on an instrument tonight, you will be assured that an instrument has been ordered and will arrive for your child at the start of school. All instruments will be delivered to Dan F. Long next August (to keep anxious students from attempting to assemble their instrument before they know what they are doing)! Students will not begin on their instruments on the first class day, but will start during the first two weeks. Please avoid cheap poorly made instruments. If you find a deal that is too good to be true, it probably is.

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There will be several band directors at the April 28 Come and Go Meeting. If you are unable to attend, a special date can be arranged by calling Mr. Black or Mrs. Parks at 972-968-4136 or email: [band@DFLBAND.com](mailto:band@DFLBAND.com).

**PLEASE NOTE: Once a section is full. it is closed. Students who wait too late to trvout**

mouthpieces will not have as many instrument choices.

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## Obtaining an Instrument

**1. Who is this music store and why are they here tonight?** Music & Arts is represented here tonight for your convenience.

- A representative from Music & Arts comes to the school once a week to service the accounts of the students.
- They pickup and deliver at the school if it is necessary to take the instrument to the repair shop.
- Music & Arts has it's own factory trained repair staff.
- They have no agreement with the school or with any band director other than the understanding that they will come to the school regularly to provide efficient service to their customers.
- They can make instruments available on a rental agreement.

**2. What is the renewable rental with option to purchase agreement?**

- This plan is designed to give your child the opportunity to begin band with only a small initial investment.
- Your child can have the advantages of a brand new instrument, such as pride of ownership, freedom from error due to poor equipment, opportunity to be the best player by having the best available instrument for this grade level.
- The students have the instrument and mouthpiece recommended by the band director.
- The instrument can be returned to the company at any time without further obligation.
- The instrument may be purchased with the rent being applied to the purchase price.
- MORE information and plans will be available at the spring meeting.

### 3. May I purchase an instrument from another music store?

- You are free to purchase an instrument from any source.
- There are other brands of instruments available for less money; **HOWEVER**, many are inferior in quality of workmanship and materials.
- The store you deal with should have a repair shop and be able to service the instrument after you purchase it.
- The **recommended mouthpiece must be included** (or purchased). An unsatisfactory mouthpiece can do a detriment to a student's progress.
- The most convenient and economical way to get an instrument is through the plan offered by the company represented here tonight.

**4. May I purchase a used instrument?** Yes, but care must be taken not to purchase an instrument whose condition would be a stumbling block to your child. It is important to consult with one of the band directors concerning the condition of the instrument before you buy it. You might check with the store represented here concerning the availability of good used instruments. If you decide to look for a used instrument, we would still strongly urge you to purchase the brand and model on our recommended list of instruments, along with the recommended mouthpiece for that instrument.

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### 5. What happens next August?

- Band starts on the first day of school.
- During the first few class meetings, general items will be discussed like class procedures, rhythm and simple music theory.
- If you have a rental agreement with the music store, they will deliver your child's instrument and materials to Dan F. Long. The band directors will issue these items to the students at the proper time. We do not want the students to handle any instrument until after proper care and maintenance has been taught.

## Recommended Instrument List

The following instruments are the recommended brands and models for beginners at Dan F. Long Middle School. Parents and students may ask for another brand or model with approval. In some instances, other instruments will be approved, but **in most cases, all students should use these brands**. Mr. Black or Mrs. Parks can give approval. Also, all students **must** obtain the mouthpiece listed.

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Instrument	Brand	Model	Mouthpiece
<b>Flute</b>	Yamaha	YFL-281S (formerly 285S)	
	alternate model: Yamaha 225S		
<b>Clarinet</b>	Buffet	E-11	Vandoren 5RV Lyre
<b>Cornet</b>	Yamaha	CYCR-2310II	Bach 7C
	Bach	CR300	Bach 7C
<b>Trombone</b>	Bach	TB300	Schilke 51
	Jupiter (with or without trigger)	438L	Schilke 51
<b>Percussion</b>	Marimba Warehouse	Linda Maxey marimba	see kit supply list below
	Remo 8" Practice Pad & Stand	RT-0008-00 (pad) & stand	

School provided instruments:	Mouthpiece:	
<b>F Horn</b> (BERP also provided)	UMI (7BW)	
<b>Euphonium/Baritone</b> (BERP also provided)	Schilke 51-D	
<b>Tuba</b> (BERP also provided)	Bach 24AW	
<b>Oboe</b> (if unavailable through the school, then two models are available as rentals: Yamaha YOB 211 or Bundy/Signet Plastic)	Necessary reeds and supplies	
<b>Bassoon</b>	Necessary reeds and supplies	

## 2011-12 Supply List

<b>FLUTE</b>	
30036	Bo Pep Finger Saddle
28949	Cleaning Cloth (swab)
75724	Silver Polish Cloth
68536	Music Stand
18053	Standard of Excellence Enhanced Book 1
<b>CLARINET</b>	
77333	1 box Vandoren Reeds # 3
58678	Buffet Hanky Swab
9627	LaVoz Reed Guard
3290	Thumb Saver
68536	Music Stand
18056	Standard of Excellence Enhanced Book 1
<b>OBOE</b>	
74463	3 Graham Reeds (medium)
69242	Fox Oboe Reed Case (holds 2-3 reeds)
28950	Silk Swab
68536	Music Stand
18054	Standard of Excellence Enhanced Book 1
<b>BASSOON</b>	
27497	3 Jones Bassoon Reeds (medium)
67460	Fox Bassoon Reed Case
18055	Standard of Excellence Enhanced Book 1
<b>CORNET</b>	
75724	Cleaning Cloth
11059	Al Cass Valve Oil
8735	Selmer Slide Grease
68536	Music Stand
18062	Standard of Excellence Enhanced Book 1
<b>FRENCH HORN</b>	
	UMI Horn Mouthpiece 7BW
75724	Cleaning Cloth
11059	Al Cass Valve Oil
8735	Selmer Slide Grease
18063	Standard of Excellence Enhanced Book 1

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<b>TROMBONE</b>	
75724	Cleaning Cloth
21676	Trombotine Cream
68536	Music Stand
18064	Standard of Excellence Enhanced Book 1
<b>EUPHONIUM/BARITONE</b>	
36696	Schilke 51-D Mouthpiece
11059	Al Cass Valve Oil
18066	Standard of Excellence Enhanced Book 1
<b>TUBA</b>	
29601	Bach 24AW Mouthpiece
1893	Bach Tuba Nylon Mouthpiece Pouch
11059	Al Cass Valve Oil
18067	Standard of Excellence Regular Book 1
<b>PERCUSSION</b>	
	(Stick requirements being revised.)
3255	Metronome
63262	Simple Steps to Beginning Percussion by Kennan Wylie

Each band member will need an additional book in the early fall: "Foundations for Superior Performance" These will be ordered around the start of school. More information will be sent home at that time.