

Dear 6<sup>th</sup> grade parent,

Congratulations! Your child has been selected to play **percussion** this year. We are thrilled that he/she will be in our program, and we are looking forward to working with your child for years to come.

We took many things in consideration when selecting your child for this instrument. First, we asked each child to select the top three instruments that they would enjoy playing. Then we asked the student to try out on the instruments to see which would suit them the best. Many times, we are able to tell if the child has a chance of success on this instrument by our simple tryout. Also, we looked at instrumentation of our band to make it balanced. For example, a concert band with 35 saxophones and 3 trombones would NOT sound good. In the case of the most competitive instruments, we simply chose the students who had the best tryouts.

We encourage you to begin comparing prices with different music companies for different beginner percussion kits. Just like any major purchase, it is important that you know what to buy. Some percussion brands are excellent for beginners, but some are terrible. If you buy your child a bad instrument, they could develop some wrong habits on an instrument that is difficult to correct. Additionally, these instruments chronically need repair with parts that are unavailable or are very expensive. In general, you will get what you pay for.

We recommend **Mapex, Vic Firth, or Pearl** percussion kits. You may buy or rent these instruments at any music store (Palen Music, Tulsa Band, Saied Music, The Music Store are some in the Tulsa area.) In our opinion, you should not purchase an instrument from a retail store such as Sam's Club or Costco, as these instruments are low quality and will cause problems in the future. If you choose to look to other areas for an instrument (Ebay, online purchase, etc.) please let us know, and we will be happy to look at the website to make sure that you are getting a good brand at a good deal.

**Palen Music will be at the East Intermediate Band Room on Tuesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> from 7:30-9:00 PM to rent/sell percussion instruments.** This is NOT a required meeting. Palen Music essentially brings their store to the school for your convenience. You may rent or purchase an instrument from them at that time if you choose to do so. Band books and other supplies will also be available.

Supplies for band:

*Found at any music store:*

- "Essential Elements- Book One for Percussion"
- Beginner Percussion Kit (comes with bells, practice pad and stand)
- Concert Snare Sticks (SD1 Vic Firth or similar)
- Concert Bell Mallets
- 6" or 12" practice pad (typically come with percussion kits)

*Found at other stores:*

- 3 ring binder (1 inch)
- Page protectors (25 pack)
- Pencil

Our first day with instruments will be Monday, August 29<sup>th</sup>. Students do not need to bring instruments until that time. We **STRONGLY** urge you to NOT allow your child to play before they receive our instruction. It is easy to establish poor habits at the onset, and it is very difficult to correct them afterwards.

Please email me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kenny Martin, Percussion Director, [kenny.martin@jenksps.org](mailto:kenny.martin@jenksps.org)