

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

Congratulations! Your child has been selected to play in **Percussion Class** 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. Please take note of our two concert dates this year: **Monday, December 8th** and **Monday, May 4th**. More information about our concerts will be communicated at a later date.

We took many things into 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.

First, you do not have to do anything just yet; The purpose of this letter is for you to be able to plan ahead. 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. Beginning on a poor-quality instrument can cause unwanted habits to develop which are 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 the **Mapex, Yamaha or Pearl** brand percussion kits. You may rent or buy these instruments at any music store in the area. 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 host an Instrument Rental Night on Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM at the Jenks High School Performing Arts Center (NW area of JHS campus) to rent/sell percussion instruments.**

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. If you cannot make the meeting, you also have the option of renting/buying through [www.palenmusic.com](http://www.palenmusic.com). If you do this, Palen Music will bring the instrument to the school, and we will deliver it to your child.

Supplies **required** for percussion class:

*Found through any music store or at school rental night:*

1. **Yamaha** Percussion Bell Kit - Model # SPK-285R or **Mapex** Percussion Kit - Model # MPK32PC  
(comes with a keyboard, a stand and a mini practice pad)
2. **Innovative Percussion** Stick Bag - Model # SB3 with the following in it:  
(a pair of **Vic Firth SD1** snare sticks, **IP 240** marimba mallets,  
**IP 902** bell/xylophone mallets and **Vic Firth T1** timpani mallets)
3. **Evans RealFeel** 12" 2-Sided Practice Pad - Model # RF12D
4. **Yamaha** Concert Snare Drum Stand - Model # SS-665 or **Pearl** Snare Drum Stand - Model # S710 or **Gibraltar**  
Concert Snare Drum Stand - Model # GIB-5706EX  
(used for holding the 12" practice pad during class)
5. **"Tradition of Excellence"** Percussion Method Book #1 - Model # W61PR

*Found at other stores:*

6. 3-ring binder (1 inch)
7. Page protectors (25 pack)
8. Pencils

*Optional but highly recommended:*

9. **Boss TU-30** Metronome & Tuner - Model # TU-30 or  
**Korg TM-60** Metronome & Tuner - Model # TM60BK

Once the **Palen Music Instrument Night at the Jenks High School Performing Arts Center on Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM** is complete and everyone has had a chance to go obtain instruments and supplies, we will tentatively start using instruments for class beginning Wednesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>. Using instruments for class will depend on how quickly every percussion student is able to obtain an instrument. **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. I am always willing to help!

Sincerely,

Mark Stevenson, Percussion Teacher  
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