

May 27, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Starting in fourth grade, every student has the opportunity to participate in Oradell Public School's Instrumental Music Program. Our Instrumental Program usually consists of three leveled bands and one 30-minute lesson per week. Our lessons are based on a rotating schedule so your child will not miss the same class each and every week.

The instruments your child can choose include: **flute, oboe, clarinet, alto saxophone, french horn, trumpet, trombone, baritone horn and percussion**. Typically during this time of year, I have students try different instruments to see which is best suited for them. Since that is not possible this year, I have created a website that can help students choose an instrument. That site can be found [here](#). There you will find a matching tool game to help students choose an instrument, as well as video clips demonstrating each instrument.

All instruments are available for rental from Music and Arts. **Students who are interested in playing percussion are required to rent the chromatic option on the rental page.** Percussion students will learn xylophone as well as snare drum. You may purchase an instrument from another store. But beware of instruments sold in department stores, wholesale stores or online, as they are often unreliable. If you plan on purchasing an instrument, please check with me first on what brands are best for beginners.

In order for your child to have the best possible band experience it is important for our band to have balanced instrumentation. Bass instruments play a very important role in the overall sound of a concert band. It would be great to have a large number of trombones & baritone horns to help our sound.

In addition to an instrument there are some additional supplies that your child will need. We will be using **Sound Innovations, Book 1** for all lessons. This book may be found at most music stores for around \$8.00. A pencil and a half-inch 3 ring binder are also required for all lessons.

There are some ways for your child to get a head start this summer. Music lessons are being offered on Zoom through Music & Arts. I will also be teaching a summer band camp in Emerson from July 5th through July 23rd. More information can be found [here](#). If your child is interested in attending, please contact Music and Arts to rent your instrument before the start of camp.

To register for our band please fill out the following [Google Form](#). I am looking forward to a great year! If there are any questions or concerns, I can be reached at butcherj@oradellschool.org

Thank you,
Mr. James Butcher