

Brinckerhoff, Fishkill Elementary & Gayhead Schools - 5th Grade Band

Mr. Bob Brainerd, Director

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A mandatory "Welcome Night" is Wed., April 24th, 6:30pm @ RCK. Rental companies will be on site.

Congratulations on your child's decision to study instrumental music! I look forward to working with your child during the 2019-20 school year.

I would like to reinforce a few very important points.

- Please act quickly to rent an instrument for your child. If you are renting from one of the local vendors, please send them the required form and payment by the beginning of July. One of them might require it sooner to get the price break! Instruments will then be delivered to your school in early September and will be handed out at your child's first lesson. Be sure to ask them to include the lesson book for your instrument.
- If you plan on acquiring or borrowing a used instrument, please consider taking it to a music shop to have it looked over and brought up to an optimal playing condition. It would be best to check with either of the rental companies (see the packets you received). Also, since you will not be renting, you must purchase the book that we use in 5th Grade, "Standard of Excellence", **Book 1**, for your particular instrument. Try **Alto Music** store on Rt. 9 in Wappingers, just north of **Wendy's** and on the right.

Below are some accessories your child will need to start the year off right.

For all students: Please consider buying a folding music stand for home practice.

Flute players: (This is a suggestion, not a requirement) Beginning flute players can have a much easier time learning to hold the flute if they use a "Bo-pep" finger "Saddle" (NOT the "Finger Rest"!). It's a small plastic attachment that makes holding the flute less awkward to learn. It should cost less than \$10.00. There are a few different types of Bo-Peps for different fingers and/or positions. If you so choose, please be sure to order the one that is called "Saddle".

Clarinet and Saxophone players: Your instrument will come with one or two reeds. They are delicate and wear out quickly and/or chip and break very easily. You must purchase a box of 10 reeds with your initial rental order. Students must have extras on hand at all times. **Rico Royal** (the blue box) or **Vandoren** brands are recommended, strength - **2½**.

Oboe players: Your instrument will probably come with only one reed. They are delicate and can split or chip very easily. Please have a couple of extras on hand. I do require the students to have at least 1 extra new reed in their case at all times. **Fox/Renard** and **Leshner** are 2 good brands to start with. Start with **Medium Soft (MS)** reeds.

Trumpet, French Horn, Baritone Horn players: Your rental *should* include valve oil and slide grease. Ask the rental company to be sure to include both with the instrument rental.

Trombone players: You don't need valve oil! Instead, please ask for/purchase a tube of Yamaha "Slide Cream" OR Yamaha "Slide Lubricant". This is essential for playing trombone.

Percussion players: The sticks, mallets and Bell stand are incl. in the Bell & Practice Pad Kit. Be sure to order the lesson book: "Standard of Excellence" *for Percussion & Mallets, Book 1.*

Please email me at the address below if you need some recommendations on where to purchase these supplies or for instrument service.

I would love to hear from you! Take a moment in the next day or two to send me an email to say "hello" so that I can add your email address to my Band email lists for next year. This will enable me to send out important information regarding concerts, etc. Sometimes those handouts we give the kids just don't make it home to you for some reason!

Again, my email & Teacher Web page addresses are:

Robert.Brainerd@wcsdny.org

<https://www.wappingersschools.org/Domain/909>

Please feel free to contact me at any time with any questions or concerns you may have. Since I will be traveling between 3 schools throughout the week, it is conceivable that phone calls may not be returned until the next day. However, I usually respond to email by day's end, if not within hours.

Also, I will be maintaining my Teacher web page. I will keep concert schedules and lesson schedules up-to-date, along with other useful information and Internet links.

Thanks for reading! Please remember to send me an email. I look forward to working with and teaching your child in the fall.

Remember, your child will receive his/her instrument at their first lesson during the 2nd full 6-day cycle in September.

Best regards,

Bob Brainerd

Director of 5th & 6th Grade Bands

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