

# Princeton Sixth Grade Band

[princetonband.weebly.com](http://princetonband.weebly.com)

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Dear Parents,

6<sup>th</sup> grade students are eligible to sign up for Beginning Band. The band program at Princeton Middle High School is a very successful and exciting program. If your child is interested in learning to play a musical instrument and being a part of this program, this letter contains the information for getting them started. Please email Mr. Heller at [robertheller@johnnton.k12.nc.us](mailto:robertheller@johnnton.k12.nc.us) if you have questions not answered by this letter. The band also has a webpage ([princetonband.weebly.com](http://princetonband.weebly.com)) that has much information concerning band at Princeton. You can also navigate to the band webpage from the Princeton Middle High School Webpage.

## IS BAND A REGULAR CLASS?

Yes. Band classes meet during the school day and students receive a grade in band just as they do in other classes.

## ARE THERE AFTER SCHOOL PRACTICES?

No. The only required band activities that happen outside of the school day are concerts. We have 2 - 4 concert per year; the two biggest are in December and May.

## SHOULD THE STUDENTS ALREADY KNOW HOW TO READ MUSIC? IS NATURAL TALENT NECESSARY?

No. We will teach them everything they need to know. Our first classes will be spent on learning to read music and then they will start to apply that knowledge to playing the instruments. Natural talent is not necessary. All students who have a good instrument, have their materials for class, and practice at home can succeed, but it takes work.

## HOW MUCH PRACTICE IS REQUIRED?

Beginners should practice 15 minutes per night or 4 times per week for 30 minutes to an hour.

## DOES BAND INTERFERE WITH ATHLETICS?

**NO.** Band is a class during the school day. All athletics are extracurricular. At Princeton Middle High School we have students in grades 6-12 taking band and also participating in Middle School, Junior Varsity, and Varsity sports of all kinds.

## WHICH INSTRUMENT SHOULD MY CHILD CHOOSE?

The instrument choices are as follows:



Flute



Clarinet



Alto Saxophone



Trumpet



Trombone



Drum and Bell

Any sixth grade student wishing to rent an instrument for band can go to this link:

**[www.bignotemusic.com/rentals/](http://www.bignotemusic.com/rentals/)**

Spots are limited for alto saxophone and percussion (bells and drums.) Please contact Mr. Heller before renting one of those instruments.

There are several options available for renting an instrument. These include Big Note Music, Music and Arts in Raleigh and Cary ( [www.musicarts.com/](http://www.musicarts.com/) ) , Redphish Music in Goldsboro, and Edwards Music Company in Fayetteville. Big Note Music is the company that I work most closely with. In addition to offering instrument rentals, they visit our school several times a year with their mobile repair bus and take care of repairs for instruments rented from them on the spot. This saves time and keeps a good working instrument in your student's hands.

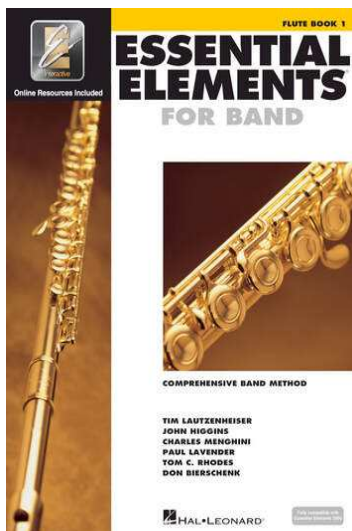
Wherever you decide to rent or purchase your child's instrument, **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT IT IS A REPUTABLE MUSIC STORE!** There are many products available that I do not recommend because the quality of the instrument is less than student worthy. These instruments may seem like a good deal because they cost much less than the instruments rented by the music store—**BUT BEWARE!!!!** Much like an automobile you get what you pay for with an instrument. Many of these “instruments” seem like a very good deal but are made overseas without quality parts, quality materials, or quality controlled manufacturing techniques. Many times once these instruments break repair parts can not be obtained. Many times these “instrument shaped objects” will not play in tune and will not allow your student to be successful in band. **THESE “BARGAIN” INSTRUMENTS ARE A WASTE OF MONEY!!!** If you rent from [bignotemusic.com](http://bignotemusic.com) or a reputable music store like the ones listed above your child will have a good quality instrument that will be able to be repaired and will last during your child's school music career. **ANY INSTRUMENT THAT BIG NOTE MUSIC RENTS WILL BE A GOOD INSTRUMENT THAT WILL LAST. BIG NOTE IS ALSO HERE PERIODICALLY TO SERVICE OUR BAND INSTRUMENTS ON THE SPOT.**

If you have an “attic” instrument it may need repairs. Those repairs can be scheduled and paid for at [bignotemusic.com](http://bignotemusic.com). If you have an instrument that you find online, one that you want to buy from a neighbor, or one that you find at a pawn shop that you wish to buy I will be glad to look at it for you. You can even take pictures of the instrument and email them to me.

If you have any questions about acquiring an instrument for your student please email me at [robertheller@johnston.k12.nc.us](mailto:robertheller@johnston.k12.nc.us).

## What Are The Benefits Of Joining Band?

- Students in music learn to think creatively and to solve problems by imagining various solutions, rejecting outdated rules and assumptions. Questions about music do not have only one right answer.
- Students of music learn craftsmanship as they study how details are put together painstakingly and what constitutes good, as opposed to mediocre, work. These standards, when applied to a student's own work, demand a new level of excellence and require students to stretch their inner resources.
- In music, a mistake is a mistake; the instrument is in tune or not, the notes are well played or not, the entrance is made or not. It is only by much hard work that a successful performance is possible. Through music study, students learn the value of sustained effort to achieve excellence and the concrete rewards of hard work.
- Music study enhances teamwork skills and discipline. In order for a band to sound good, all players must work together harmoniously towards a single goal, the performance, and must commit to learning music, attending rehearsals, and practicing.
- Music provides children with a means of self-expression. Self-esteem is a by-product of this self-expression.
- Music study develops skills that are necessary in the workplace. It focuses on "doing," as opposed to observing, and teaches students how to perform, literally, anywhere in the world. Employers are looking for multi-dimensional workers with the sort of flexible and supple intellects that music education helps to create as described above. In the music classroom, students can also learn to better communicate and cooperate with one another.
- Music performance teaches young people to conquer fear and to take risks. A little anxiety is a good thing, and something that will occur often in life. Dealing with it early and often makes it less of a problem later. Risk-taking is essential if a child is to fully develop his or her potential.



**Essential Elements Interactive for Band Book 1 is the book that the sixth graders use.**

**The book can be found at many locations including the following: [bignotemusic.com](http://bignotemusic.com) (as an add on when renting an instrument), [amazon.com](http://amazon.com), [musicarts.com](http://musicarts.com), [wwbw.com](http://wwbw.com), [musiciansfriend.com](http://musiciansfriend.com), [samash.com](http://samash.com), [guitarcenter.com](http://guitarcenter.com), Redphish Music, Music and Arts Stores, Sam Ash Music Stores, Edwards Music in Fayetteville, and McFayden Music in Greenville.**

**Please buy a new book as it comes with online access to [myeelibrary.com](http://myeelibrary.com) which we will use in class.**

**Please contact Mr. Heller at [robertheller@johnston.k12.nc.us](mailto:robertheller@johnston.k12.nc.us) if you have questions about acquiring a band book.**

**2019-20 Sixth Grade Band Registration**

**Princeton Middle High School**

**8/20/19**

princetonband.weebly.com

robertheller@johnston.k12.nc.us

**Student name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent phone #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent e-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**First choice instrument: (circle one)**

**Flute Clarinet Alto Sax Trumpet Trombone Percussion**

**Second choice instrument: (circle one)**

**Flute Clarinet Alto Sax Trumpet Trombone Percussion**

Spots are limited for alto saxophone and percussion (bells and drums.) Please contact Mr. Heller before renting one of those instruments.

**Please turn this registration form in to Mr. Heller tonight.**