



## Welcome to one of the most exciting experiences you can be a part of- **THE BAND!**

Dear Parents,

Our names are Matt Leftin and Bruce Denmead, and we are proud to introduce ourselves as the Haverhill Elementary & Middle School Band Directors. We are looking forward to an exciting and musical year.

All fifth grade students in the Haverhill Public Schools are eligible to join our band program. This year, students who elect to learn an instrument receive two lessons weekly, one live and one pre-recorded.

This year, band lessons will take place entirely remotely. When selecting an instrument, parents and students should select an instrument with lessons that they will be able to attend on a weekly basis.

Our goal is to provide the highest quality musical instruction possible in concert with the academic performance of our students. Students in the band program typically perform at our Winter & Spring Concerts, as well as community outreach events such as the Haverhill Memorial Day Parade. We are committed to keeping performance alive during this time. We plan to have a number of virtual performances. Later in the year, we hope to have some outdoor performances.

Students will be given the option of learning the flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, french horn, baritone horn or mallet percussion (bell kit & snare drum). **Due to instructor availability, it is possible that not all of these instruments will be offered.** The instruments offered to band students will depend on the number of students expressing an interest in each instrument. Because of this, it is very important that students select a 2nd and 3rd instrument choice.

Please contact me at [Matthew.Leftin@Haverhill-PS.org](mailto:Matthew.Leftin@Haverhill-PS.org) with any questions or concerns you might have.

## Obtaining an Instrument

All fifth and sixth grade students are eligible to join the Haverhill Public Schools band lesson program. Instruction will be offered on **Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Baritone Horn and Percussion (Snare Drum & Bells)**. Lessons are provided at no charge to the student.

In order to participate in the program, students must obtain the use of one of the instruments listed above. Since beginning on an inferior, or poor-conditioned instrument is a prescription for frustration and failure, it is highly recommended that parents consider a **rent-to-own program** as a means of providing their child with a quality instrument.

**Timeline Music** in Wakefield, Mass. will be providing new and used musical instruments to rent. Timeline offers a rent-to-own program, which allows most of your monthly rental fee go towards the cost of purchasing the instrument. Parents and students may obtain an instrument for a **four-month introductory trial period**. Thereafter, you may continue to rent on a month-to month basis.

Monthly Rental prices are as follows:

Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet	Alto Saxophone	Baritone Horn, French Horn
Bell Kit, Trombone	<b>\$43</b>	<b>\$56</b>
<b>\$29</b>		

Additionally, students will need their own *Standard of Excellence, Book 1* for their particular instrument. **Timeline Music will include these in the first payment for an additional \$7.50.**

For more information, you may contact Carl or Bob at Timeline Music at (781) 246-4424 or visit them online at <https://timelinemusic.com/rentals>.

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### District-Owned Loaner Instruments

The district owns a number of instruments, particularly in the brass family (trumpet and trombone) that are available for students to borrow free of charge if the cost of an instrument would otherwise inhibit them from participating in the band program. The instruments rented from Timeline Music are of high quality, so renting is the preferred option if possible. Please contact Mr. Leftin at [Matthew.Leftin@Haverhill-PS.org](mailto:Matthew.Leftin@Haverhill-PS.org) if you are interested in having your child use a district-owned instrument

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### Supplying Your Own Instrument

If you choose to obtain an instrument through a means other than the district or Timeline Music, please contact Mr. Leftin at [Matthew.Leftin@Haverhill-PS.org](mailto:Matthew.Leftin@Haverhill-PS.org) to check if the instrument is suitable. Many online distributors are peddling "Music Teacher Approved" instruments at very low prices. These instruments are typically very poorly made and are not repairable, therefore making for a difficult and frustrating music making process.

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### Student Sign-Ups

For sign-up information and links to our virtual instrument demonstration, please visit the following link:

<https://sites.google.com/haverhill-ps.org/band>