



Duncan Middle School Bands

601 Chisholm Trail Parkway
(580) 470-8106 x217

Duncan, OK 73533
duncanps.org/msband

Dear Parents,

Your child is set to embark on a new adventure. **Welcome to the DMS Bands!**

Through your student's involvement in band they will learn self-confidence and mental and physical discipline while at the same time making it possible for the student to develop his or her self-expression through playing music. Independent tests have proven that students involved in instrumental music also benefit from a variety of other factors, including increased higher-level thinking skills, improved coordination and better organizational skills.

On Monday and Tuesday of next week, we will help students decide which instrument they are best suited to be successful at. In most cases, students will be able to play the instrument of their choice. However, we do limit some instruments in order to produce the correct instrumentation for the class. Also, some student's may desire to play an instrument they are simply not suited to succeed at. Your son or daughter will need an instrument for band class and it is important that everyone start on a quality instrument. Your child may join band with either a new or used instrument.

Please be sure you talk with one of the directors before purchasing an instrument. We advise against going out on your own to purchase an instrument. Some instruments are not acceptable for use in the DMS Band program. If you are thinking about using a method other than the ones outlined below to obtain your student's instrument, you must consult with one of the directors first. DO NOT go out to purchase an instrument before we have approved which instrument your student will be playing in the DMS Bands.

USED Instruments: Used instruments need to be checked by the band director to be sure that they are in good working order. In the beginning stages, students need every advantage, and in some cases an instrument that has been in the family for many years just won't work for an inexperienced player. Also, be careful of purchasing instruments over the internet. They are not always in good playing condition, and can cause frustration for both you and your child. There is a company in Oklahoma City called the HORN TRADER that sells good quality used instruments.

NEW Instruments: For your convenience, representatives from Midwest Music Company will be at the bandroom on **Friday, August 21st from 4:00 until 6:00 PM** for all Brass and Percussion instruments. Representatives from Philips Music Company will be at the bandroom on **Wednesday, August 26th from 4:00 until 6:00 PM** for all Woodwind instruments. Both of these companies will have the **recommended band director approved instruments and method books** necessary for students. The instruments may be "rented" on a rental-purchase plan (rent to own) through each company. This plan makes it possible for you to give your child a chance to enter the band program without large cash outlay and no commitment to buy. Also, the rent applies



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toward the purchase of the instrument, so that if you decide to keep the instrument, you have lost nothing. We will be on hand to answer any questions that you might have at that time. Also, these music companies make weekly visits to the school for your convenience.

Any instrument not purchased from these companies, needs to be approved by a director. There have been many department and retail stores who are advertising low cost band instruments. In our opinion, these are low quality instruments, and have proven frustrating for the beginning student. Therefore certain brands of instruments are not acceptable in the Duncan Band Program. **Attached is a list of brands and recommended instrument models that are accepted.**

We recommend certain brands of instruments. We want your child to have an instrument that will not only be good to start on, but will stay in working order for as long as they play. Unfortunately, many brands are of lesser quality and workmanship, and are not acceptable for the Duncan Band Program. If there is a question about a brand name that is not listed here, feel free to contact us.

Students will not need to have an instrument until the Tuesday after Labor Day weekend. Having said that, please take advantage of the music companies that will be coming to our school on August 22 & 25. These companies travel from Weatherford and Lawton to make it more convenient for you to purchase an instrument. Please visit with your child about this important decision. If you have any questions feel free to call us. We will be glad to help.

If you need to contact us, please use the numbers below on the left, or the contact form via our websites listed on the right.

HS Band Office 255-0700 ext. 270
MS Band Office 470-8106 ext 217

www.duncanpublicschools.org/hsband
www.duncanpublicschools.org/msband

Sincerely,

Jeremy Haas
Director of Bands

Jeremy J. Smith
Ass. Director of Bands
Director of Percussion

Dawn Haas
Ass. Director of Bands



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Recommended Instruments & Accessories:

Flute

- Yamaha - YFL221 or Gemeinhardt - 2SP
- Cleaning Rod w/ Cloth
- Polishing Cloth

Clarinet

- Yamaha - YCL250 or Selmer - CL300
- 4-6 working reeds of high quality
 - Box of 10, approx. \$17.50
 - Rico Royals/Vandoren (3.5 Strength)
- Polishing Cloth
- Cleaning Swab
- Cork Grease

Saxophone

- Yamaha - YAS23
- 4-6 working reeds of high quality
 - Box of 10, approx. \$23.00
 - Rico Royals/Vandoren (3.5 Strength)
- Polishing Cloth
- Cleaning Swab
- Neck Strap

Trumpet

- Bach - TR300 or Yamaha - YTR233 or Blessing
- Polishing Cloth
- Valve Oil
- Cleaning Brushes

Trombone

- Bach - TB300 or Yamaha - YSL352 or Blessing
- Polishing Cloth
- Valve Oil
- Cleaning Brushes

Percussion

- Student percussion pack (drum pad/bell set)
 - Yamaha
 - Vic Firth Snare Kit - V7608
- Vic Firth SD1 snare drum sticks
- Pair of yarn mallets (cymbals, marimba)

Other Approved Brands:

Artley
Armstrong
Bach
Blessing
Buffet
Bundy
Conn
Getzen
Gemeinhardt
Holton
Ludwig
Pearl
Selmer
Vito
Yamaha