

# Knox Gifted Academy

## Beginning of the Year Band Information

Please join **Remind** to get updates on Band

Beginning band: @kgabgband

Advanced Band: @kgaadvband

**First Day:** Beginning Band – Monday 7/29

Advanced Band – Tuesday 7/30

**Location:** Stage (Mrs. Moran's room)

**Time:** 8:15-9:00

**Schedule:** Beginning Band – M,W,F

Advanced Band – T, Th

### FAQs

***Which band should my student join?*** Students who were in band last year will be in Advanced. All new students, including those taking lessons, will start in Beginning. If a student needs to be moved to I will discuss that with you once I get to know everyone.

### ***Which instrument is my child playing?***

- New students can choose from the following instruments:

Flute

Clarinet

Alto Saxophone

Trumpet

Trombone

Baritone

Percussion (students start on bell kit)

- The spring band forms ask the student for 3 choices so the student thinks about different possibilities. **Your student can pick any of the instruments above.**
- Returning students should play the same instrument. Those who would like to switch instruments, including to bass clarinet, tenor saxophone, and tuba, should talk with me.

***Should I buy or rent an instrument, and what are good stores?*** I suggest you rent first. The stores I have experience with all provide good instruments because they want you to have a good experience and come back. It is appropriate for you to visit multiple stores to compare pricing, repair procedures, rent-to-own options, and service.

Buying online, especially when a buying new instrument is cheaper than renting one for a year, is a much riskier proposition. Often, low priced instruments are also of low quality. I know some repairmen who refuse to work on certain brands because they know it will break again and they don't want be blamed. Please feel free to contact me before you buy.

***What if I can't afford to rent or buy?*** There are a couple of options. The first of which is applying for district instruments, which are available at minimal cost. Contact me or visit the front office for a form.

***What book do they need?*** Standard of Excellence, Book 1. Advanced band will start the year in this book for review purposes. I will notify you when Book 2 is needed.

***What other supplies do we need?***

- All woodwinds should have swabs or rods to dry out the instrument
- Clarinets and Saxophones should always have 4 good reeds. Start with #2, the brand is up to you. Advanced players should start on a 2.5, or 3 (if they practiced regularly over the summer).
- Clarinet and Saxophones also need cork grease.
- Brass players should have a mouthpiece brush, a snake for cleaning the tubes, tuning slide grease, and valve oil (slide oil or cream & spray bottle for trombone)
- Percussion players should have a bell kit and mallets, a snare drum or practice pad, and drum sticks.

**Other Important information:**

- Students need to commit to playing the full school year.
- While it is before school, **band is treated more as a class than as a club** – students are expected to attend regularly, be on time, and do “homework” in the form of practicing the instrument.
- We will be performing required concerts outside of regular school hours. Those dates will be announced early in the year on the website and through Remind.

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