

SMITHSON VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND

COMAL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear Smithson Valley Middle School Band Parents:

Your child, _____, has been selected to play 

You will need to obtain one of the following models of Flute (rent or purchase):

- Yamaha (*only*) – YFL-281 (**inline G**) ***OR*** YFL-261 (**offset G for smaller hands**)

The following accessories should be acquired at the same time as the Flute:

- GEM Swabs **Silk Flute Swab** (~\$9)
- Flute **Cleaning Rod** (~\$4)
- Flute **Polishing Cloth** (~\$4)
- Flute **Pad Paper** (~\$4)
- **Metronome** for Practice at Home – *Korg TM-40 (\$30) or Qwik Time QT-7 (\$15)*
- Book: **Sound Innovations for Concert Band – FLUTE – Book 1**
- Optional:*
- Folding Music Stand for Practice at Home

It is essential that a quality instrument be obtained from a reputable music store or other trusted source. There is a big risk in getting instruments from sources like department store catalogs, big-box retail stores, wholesale clubs, Internet auction sites, and pawnshops. **Instruments from these sources are often of a much lower quality, frequently fall apart or are difficult to play, and can affect a student's progress.**

The two music stores that are listed at the bottom of this page are trusted sources that can provide you with many options of obtaining the instrument and supplies.

Approved Music Stores:

- Hillje Music Center – 210-696-0039
(any location)
3703 Colony Dr.
San Antonio, TX 78230
<http://www.hilljemusiccenter.com/>
- High School Music Service – 210-349-2775
(any location)
2106 NW Military
San Antonio, TX 78213
<http://www.hsmusicservice.com/>

Both stores have competitive pricing of instruments as well as road technicians who come to our school each week to service instruments in need of repair and deliver supplies and accessories. Check them out, and if you have any trouble, please let us know.

***→ WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND** setting up your rental agreement to have the instrument and accessories **delivered to our school in August** (*no payments due until then*), so we can check them first.

***→ This will prevent unnecessary damage to the instrument and ensure that your child has everything they need to be successful in band!**

Thanks again for encouraging your child to take band. They will not regret it.

- Paul Dixon

- James Hargreaves

I can't wait for Band to start next year! So . . . , if I can't play my instrument until then, what can I do NOW?

You can start working on the skills you will need to be successful in band!


1 – Learn to Read Music!

Great Resources: <http://www.musictheory.net>
<http://datadragon.com/education/reading/>
<http://www.learningpiano.net/how-to-read-piano-notes.htm>

Once you have learned to read note names, practice reading them on these programs/websites:

<http://www.prestokeys.com/> - GREAT FREE Downloadable PROGRAM!

<http://classic.musictheory.net/82> (Click on *Settings* to change the **Clef**)

- Focus on the **Treble Clef**. It looks like this: 
- This is the primary clef that will be used for your instrument, so start learning the note names and vocabulary for reading music on your chosen instrument.

2 – Consider taking Piano Lessons

Playing Piano does all sorts of wonderful things! It helps with:

- Reading notes and rhythms,
- Keeping a steady beat or pulse in time with the music,
- Building finger dexterity
- Creating more Brain and Body connections to help find success.

3 – Study up on you're chosen instrument and begin listening to the great musicians who have performed on it.

Listen to their SOUND! – You will soon begin to IMITATE that sound on your instrument when we start Beginning Band in the Fall!

Playing an instrument is all about producing the **BEST SOUND QUALITY POSSIBLE**. The better your sound, the more success you will find and the more fun you will have.

FLUTE PERFORMERS: (Someone who plays the Flute is known as a Flautist)

Galway, Sir James - <http://www.jamesgalway.com/>

- One of the most famous and successful Flautists in the world!

Baxtresser, Jeanne - <http://www.jeannebaxtresser.com/>

- Principal Flautist with the New York Philharmonic

Khaner, Jeffrey - <http://www.iflute.com>

- Principal Flautist with the Philadelphia Orchestra

Other well-known Flautists:

- Kieko Hashiguchi, Hans-Martin Linde, Marcel Moyse, Louis Moyse, Trevor Wye, William Bennett, and Jean Pierre Rampal.