Dear Smithson Valley Middle School Band Parents:

Your child, ____________________, has been selected to play **French Horn**!

**You will be provided with a French Horn from the school.**
There will be a $100/year instrumental maintenance fee due in the fall at registration.

**The following accessories should be purchased from a reputable music store:**

- Farkas MC **Mouthpiece**
- Bach French Horn **Mouthpiece Pouch** (leather, plastic, or nylon)
- 1 Bottle of Holton **Rotary Oil**
- 1 Bottle of Selmer Tuning **Slide (and cork) Grease**
- **Metronome** for Practice at Home – Korg TM-40 ($30) or Qwik Time QT-7 ($15)
- **Book:** Sound Innovations for Concert Band – French Horn – Book 1
  - **Optional:**
    - Folding Music Stand for Practice at Home

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 proper mouthpiece and supplies.

**Approved Music Stores:**

- Hillje Music Center – 210-696-0039
  (any location)
  3703 Colony Dr.
  San Antonio, TX 78230

- High School Music Service – 210-349-2775
  (any location)
  2106 NW Military
  San Antonio, TX 78213

Both stores have competitive pricing 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 purchase to have all the accessories **delivered to our school in August, so we can check everything first.** (Both music stores above provide this service)

*⇒ This will prevent unnecessary damage or misplacement and ensure that your child has everything they need to be successful in band next year!

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.

**FRENCH HORN PERFORMERS:**

**Thompson, Michael** - http://www.michaelthompson.uk.com/
- Internationally recognized as one of the world’s leading horn players.

**Cerminaro, John** - http://www.johncerminaro.com/
- Principal Horn, Seattle Symphony; former of the New York & Los Angeles Philharmonic.

**Nelson, Jeff** - http://www.jeffnelsen.com/
- Best known as the hornist for the world famous Canadian Brass.

Other well-known Horn Players:
- Vincent DeRosa, David Pyatt, Philip Myers, Hermann Baumann, Myron Bloom, Philip Farkas, Stefan Dohr, Radovan Vlatkovic, Giovanni Punto, Dennis Brain