

**MERCER ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Music Department**  
**Beginning Elementary Instrumental Program**

September 1, 2011

Dear 5<sup>th</sup> grade Parents:

Last spring many of you enrolled your student in the Beginning Instrument program offered through the Mercer Island School District. The following is important information for you to review regarding the program if your child is planning on participating.

**I. PURCHASE OR RENT AN INSTRUMENT:**

A critical component to your child's success as a musician is the quality of his/her instrument. Unfortunately, all brands are not created equal! Below is a list of instrument brands we have found to be of consistently high quality. We encourage you not to compromise your child's opportunity for success.

Recommended instruments.

Flute: Yamaha, Gemeinhardt, Selmer, Emerson, Armstrong, Olds, Jupiter  
Clarinet: Buffet, Yamaha, Selmer, Vito, Jupiter, Bundy, Olds, Leblanc, Yamaha or VanDoren mouthpieces  
Trumpet: Yamaha, Bach, Holton, King, Bundy, Conn, Besson, Jupiter, Olds, Blessing, Getzen  
Saxes: Yamaha, Selmer, Yanigasawa, Conn, Vito, Keilwerth, Jupiter, Olds, P. Mauriat  
Horn: Yamaha, Holton, Conn,  
Trombone: Yamaha YSL 354, Getzen 351 (or 300-400 series), King 605 or 606, Bach TB200, Bundy, Conn, Holton, Jupiter, Olds, Besson, Blessing  
  
Baritone: Yamaha, King, Besson, Bach, Holton, King, Bundy, Conn, Jupiter, Olds, Blessing, Getzen  
All String Instruments: Roth, Lewis, Eastman, Chao; others equivalent per consultation with orchestra teacher

No such list could be all-inclusive, and MISD music faculty members welcome students and parents to contact them about brands or makers not listed.

**Where To Get An Instrument:**

**MUSIC INSTRUMENT RENTAL NIGHT!!** - On **Wednesday, September 7th at Islander Middle School**, MISD is hosting the annual Music Instrument Rental Night to get our 5<sup>th</sup> grade musicians off to a great start. At 7pm, the MISD music staff will present important information regarding the characteristics of instruments suitable for student musicians' success. At 7:15, we turn things over to the music vendors to rent and sell instruments for students of the 5th grade instrumental program. This portion of the evening will run until 8:45 pm.

**Rental Purchase Plans:** Most area music stores have rental/purchase plans which allow rental payments to apply toward purchase of the instrument. It is recommended that a used instrument be checked by an instrumental teacher. These prices are based on a per month charge. Approximate rental range/month of new/used instruments is as follows(prices from 9/2007):

**Rental Range:**

<b><u>Instrument</u></b>	<b><u>New</u></b>	<b><u>Used</u></b>
Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, Trombone	\$18 to \$22	\$13 to \$15
Baritone (Horn), French (Horn)	\$36 to \$44	\$19 to \$30
Violin, Viola	\$16 to \$20	\$12 to \$16
Cello	\$33 to \$38	\$25 to \$30

**Please read your rental agreement thoroughly**

**Craigslist, Ebay, The Attic, Want-Ads, Private Party:** If you purchase an instrument through the want-ads or through a friend or relative, please have it safety checked by a member of our staff as to condition and size. **REMEMBER:** An instrument that is not in good playing condition or is the wrong size may be impossible to play.

**The School District:** Very few instruments are available through the Mercer Island School District - mostly string basses and baritone horns. If an instrument is available, it can be used for a rental fee of \$100.00/year.

**II. PURCHASE A FOLDING MUSIC STAND, BOOK, ACCESSORIES**

(You may choose to purchase these through local music stores or at the upcoming Music Rental Night)

**Books:** 5th grade ***band*** students will use:

Essential Elements 2000 Book 1

(Lautzenheizer, Higgins, et all), approx. \$6.95

5th grade ***strings*** will use:

Learn To Play A Stringed Instrument (Book I)

**Instrument Accessories:** Students will need the following accessories with their instruments:

<u>Strings:</u>	Rosin, end pin stop for cellos and basses, shoulder pads for violin and violas.
<u>Clarinets:</u>	Three #2 and one box of #2 1/2 Bb clarinet reeds, a plastic reed keeper, cleaning swab, cork grease, mouthpiece brush, and consider getting a neck strap -especially if your child is small. (The neck strap is optional).
<u>Brass:</u>	Valve oil for cornets and trumpets, mouthpiece brush, slide cream and a small spray bottle for trombones. No slide oil please!
<u>Flutes:</u>	Small 5x7" mirror, and cleaning swab

**III. FIRST AND SECOND LESSONS: Monday, September 19th and Wednesday, September 21st, (times listed below)**

The first lesson for all instruments is going to be held on Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup> in the evening at Mercer Island High School and Islander Middle School (STRINGS - IMS, Music Room 403; CLARINETS & TRUMPETS - MIHS, Room 505; TROMBONES, BARITONE HORNS & FLUTES - MIHS, Room 503). A second Lesson (not a repeat of the first) will be held Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>.

These evening lessons will allow us to group like instruments and give your youngster a fast, sure start. It will give you an opportunity to observe the early steps so you will be able to help your child at home. **We STRONGLY urge parents to attend these evening lessons with their children.**

The evening lesson schedule will be:

<b>LESSON #1 –Monday, 9/19</b>	<b>ALL INSTRUMENTS</b>
<b><u>MIHS</u></b>	
7:00 to 8:00 p.m.	Trombones, Baritones, Trumpets
8:15 to 9:15 p.m.	Flutes, Clarinets
<b><u>IMS</u></b>	
7:00 to 8:00 p.m.	Violin, Viola
8:15 to 9:15 p.m.	Cello, Bass
<b>LESSON #2 – Wednesday, 9/21</b>	<b>ALL INSTRUMENTS</b>
<b><u>MIHS</u></b>	
7:00 to 8:00 p.m.	Trombones, Baritones, Trumpets
8:15 to 9:15 p.m.	Flutes, Clarinets
<b><u>IMS</u></b>	
7:00 to 8:00 p.m.	Violin, Viola
8:15 to 9:15 p.m.	Cello, Bass

**IV. REGULAR CLASS SCHEDULE:**

**Band/Orchestra classes meet from 8:15 to 9:00 a.m. beginning the week of September 26th.**

Students will receive two group lessons per week. You will be advised as to these specific days and place during the evening classes on Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

***WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOUR CHILDREN THIS YEAR!***

*The Mercer Island Instrumental Music Staff:*

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**FOR INFORMATION AND FAQ's PLEASE VISIT THE BEGINNING INSTRUMENTS WEBSITE**  
<http://mysd.k12.wa.us/schools/ims/imsband/fifthband.html>

