



Kelly Park School Band

Marla Langford, Director
4700 Jason Dwelley Parkway
Apopka, Florida 32712
(407) 410-5900 | marla.langford@ocps.net

August 8, 2022

Dear New Band Students and Families,

Welcome to the Panther band program! We are excited about this school year and expect great things from our amazing students. We also expect great things and full participation from our amazing parents!

☺ In order for this program to reach its goals of helping our panther pride RUN we need to get things started quickly. I have attached to this letter information regarding **How To Get An Instrument** and **Rental Information**. Please review these documents so that your student is able to participate ASAP. We don't want anyone to be left out! **The first day with instruments is August 29th - all students need to have their instrument by this day.**

During the first few weeks of school the beginners will be actively discussing and trying their hands at holding, listening and playing the band instruments during class. We take many things into account when choosing the right instrument for student success. Some things considered are the student's stature, physical strength and facial characteristics. Furthermore, we must have all instruments represented within each class. You cannot have a football team without all the positions filled. Likewise, you cannot have a band without all instruments being covered! In the first semester we start the following instruments: Flute, Clarinet, French Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium and Tuba. Percussion is a separate class and requires at least a year of musical instruction or private lessons.

The school owns most of the larger band instruments (Tuba, Euphonium and French Horn) in a limited quantity. If your child chooses one of these to play, I will be sending home an instrument loan agreement form to be filled out, signed, and returned to me. The cost for using a school owned instrument is \$50 per year. **Each student will need to provide their own mouthpiece.**

Following my receipt of the completed form and payment, I will issue the instrument to your child. If your child has been assigned any other instrument, you have several options to acquire one for them. Please refer to the **How To Get An Instrument** info I've attached.

To make things easier for you, the "Band Room" a music company that services our school on a weekly basis has a website that you can rent directly online at www.bandroomorlando.com. This should save you the time and energy of running around town to check out who has what to offer. All of the companies have comparable rent-to-own programs. I highly encourage you to **rent** the instrument for the first three months to make sure of your child's aptitude for that instrument before purchasing one. **Please do not let your child play/handle the instrument before I have had a chance to show them how to put it together and take care of it properly.**

During the first couple of weeks of school we move slowly and your child may be asked to keep their instrument at school until they are consistently demonstrating correct fundamentals and can transition these at home. Each student is assigned a locker or cubby. All instruments should be brought to the band room and placed in their locker before the first bell. They may retrieve their instruments at the end of the day during dismissal.

If you have any questions please contact me via email – marla.langford@ocps.net.

Musically yours,

Marla Langford
Director of Bands
Kelly Park School

HOW TO GET AN INSTRUMENT

It is financially impossible for the school to provide instruments for all students in the Kelly Park Band Program, however, you have a few options on how to obtain a band instrument:

1. Use a family owned instrument (please ensure it is in working condition) OR
2. Rent from a local music store/vendor OR
3. Rent for the year from KPS (limited supplies) for \$50.00 (in addition to class fee)

* You may also purchase an instrument, but it is recommended to rent in the beginning until you know your student is committed to the instrument.

Option 1: Use a Family Owned Instrument (must be functional)

If you already have an instrument at home, you are encouraged to bring it in to the band director one week before instrument start for approval. This is to ensure that you have a good quality instrument and that it is in good working condition. **The quality and working order of an instrument will directly affect your success in learning to play.** Students are responsible for all maintenance bills for their instrument.

Option 2: Rent from a Local Music Company (highly recommended)

Most students rent-to-own their instrument from a music company. When you rent an instrument from a music company, all questions regarding the terms of your rental agreement, or other services through the music company, must be directed to the company. *The director is not responsible for returning any instrument or sending in your rental payments.* In the event that an instrument must be returned, you must make arrangements with the company directly. The director is not responsible for any agreement or payment issues with the company. If you have questions about the instrument or your rental agreement, contact the company.

High quality instruments are a must. Please **avoid** eBay and Amazon. The very inexpensive brand instruments are not only impossible to play in tune, but also, once something breaks, they **cannot be repaired**. A used high-quality instrument is much better than a poorly manufactured brand new one.

Option 3: Rent from KPS (limited supply)

The Instrument Rental Fee is \$50.00 per school year; rental over the summer is also available.

Some school-owned instruments (inventory limited) are available for student use. To rent a school instrument, the \$50 non-refundable rental fee and the School Instrument Check Out Form must be turned in to the band director. The fee covers "normal wear and tear," but the student's parent is financially responsible for loss or any damages incurred during the rental period that are not considered "normal wear and tear." The director has the right to void rental agreement if excessive damage or misuse of the instrument occurs during the school year. Not all instruments are available; those available to be rented are on a first-come, first-serve basis. Families with financial hardships or more than one child in the band program needing to rent a school instrument may work out an arrangement with the band director on a case by case basis. Each student is required to purchase their own mouthpiece.

Instrument Brands to Avoid: Mendini, Herche, Eastar, Jean Paul, Glory, Eastrock, Aisiweier, Vangoa, Hisonic, Ktaxton, Slade, Jody Blues, BTER, Yinfente, Kaizer, Sky, NUVO, Taruor, JUUXAAN, Rowell, Yasisid, Pampet, Ebriche, First Act, DEG, OPUS, Cecilio, and any "colored" instruments. Please contact the band director before purchasing an instrument - even from a music store.