Dear Parents,

This is truly an exciting time for your child! I know all of the students in Beginning Band are excited to be here, are anticipating having a lot of fun learning to play their instrument, and this is going to be a great year for them! I am so glad that your child has decided to participate in band, and to continue our tradition of excellence!

Your child has chosen to play the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_in Beginning Band this year! Later in this letter, there is information from some of the stores in the area regarding instrument rental. Please feel

free to contact them with specific questions regarding prices, and rental terms. Although OMCS

does have a VERY limited number of instruments available to lend to students, please keep in mind that instruments rented from a local music store are usually newer and in better condition than the instruments available from the school. I do understand that due to financial (or other) reasons, some students may need to borrow their instrument from the Band Department, but keep in mind that they might not get to play their first choice instrument if it is not available. I will need to know as soon as possible so that the proper paperwork may be sent home with your child. Please keep in mind that your child will not be able to get his/ her instrument and participate in class until the paperwork is returned. If you already have an instrument, even if it is old, please feel free to have your child use it!

**Recommended Instrument Brands:**

Armstrong Artley Bach Besson Buffet Bundy Cannonball Conn Evette Fox Gemeinhardt

Getzen Haynes Holton Jupiter King Leblanc Miraphone Noblet Normandy Omega Selmer

Schreiber Sonari Powell Vito Yamaha Yanagisawa

What follows is an instrument-specific list of supplies your child will need to purchase in addition to obtaining an instrument.

If your child is going to play the:

**Flute** then he/ she will need:

• The Standard of Excellence Book 1 for Flute (red book)

• A handkerchief, bandana, or other similar soft cloth or swab used for cleaning the instrument at the end of practice/ rehearsal. Some instrument rental companies may include this with the instrument so be sure to ask!

**B-Flat Clarinet, Bb Tenor Saxophone or Eb Alto Saxophone,** then he/she will need:

• The Standard of Excellence Book 1 (for the appropriate instrument)

• Two (2) reeds - strength 2 ½ - I recommend Rico reeds to start.

• Cleaning swab (this also may come with the instrument rental – be sure to ask)

**Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone** then he/ she will need:

• The Standard of Excellence Book 1 (for the appropriate instrument)

Baritone Players should purchase the book for Bass Clef Baritone (or Baritone B.C.)

• A bottle of valve oil

• Baritone/Trombone optional: a mouthpiece pouch or cover. This will protect their mouthpiece from getting dented when carried in a backpack or pocket.

**Percussion**, then he/ she will need:

• The Standard of Excellence Book 1 for Percussion

• A drum pad, any size (standard is 6-8 inches)

• A pair of drumsticks

**Please note that percussionists will be playing mallets for the first grading period. Mallets will be provided but students will need their book. Drum Pads and Sticks will be required after January 21, 2011.**

I hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions about supplies or anything else, please feel free to contact me at **mvoorheis@gstboces.org**. I look forward to everyone getting their instruments as soon as possible so we can get started making music!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Voorheis

Local Music stores with rental options:

Hickeys Music Store, Ithaca, NY Fletchers Music Store, Elmira, NY

<http://www.hickeys.com/> (Located in Arnot Mall)

1-800-Hickeys <http://fletchersmusic.com/> (607) 739-1559