

South Pasadena 5th Grade Band

Welcome to 5th grade band!

My name is Mr. Farrell and I will be your band director this year! You can find more about me on the band website under the “About Your Director” tab.

How will this year’s schedule work?

- Each instrument group will meet once a week for 40 minutes for a lesson.
- Full ensemble band will be added in October on Thursdays

How do I choose an instrument?

- Check out the YouTube links with information about each instrument back on the 5th Grade Band Page
- Take note to rate your 1st choice and your 2nd choice instrument

How do I get ready?

- 1) www.tigercubband.weebly.com
- 2) Click on the 5th grade band tab
- 3) Watch the instrument introduction videos
- 4) Choose a 1st and 2nd choice instrument **Percussion is only available if students have at least 2+ years of recent piano experience*
- 5) Click on “Click here to register for 5th grade band”
- 6) Fill out survey
- 7) I will notify parents via email when registration has been confirmed.

I will always try to accommodate students’ 1st instrument choice, however I will need to keep class within a reasonable size. Please mark a 2nd choice instrument in case your 1st option is unavailable.

All that you will need to prepare for the 5th grade band is a good quality

instrument. Music and anything else will be distributed on 5th grade band opening day.

Instruments are something worth investing in. If an instrument is poorly made, it will break often or leak. When this happens, the student struggles to play the instrument, resulting in frustration, discouragement, and ultimately quitting. We all want our students to be successful in their musical endeavors - the right equipment is necessary!

Most families choose to do a rent to own program from one of the local music stores which costs \$20-40 a month. A perk of renting an instrument is that the shop will usually cover accidental damages and repairs. Shop around for the best price and the shop that is most convenient to you.

If renting:

San Marino Music Center
2575 Mission St
South Pasadena, CA 91030
626-486-9882
www.sanmarinomusiccenter.com

Bertrand's Music
145 Vista Ave
Pasadena, CA 91107
626-793-4730
www.bertrandsmusic.com

TIPS If purchasing:

DO NOT - Buy an instrument shaped object (ISO). There are tons of “ISOs” on the market today for sale online. These are extremely low quality instruments that will likely break and cause significant frustration.

DO NOT - Buy an instrument at a price that is “too good to be true”. It is. You will likely get an ISO.

DO NOT - Buy an instrument that is not the traditional color. A quality flute has never been purple.

DO - Buy an instrument from the following brands:

Flute: Yamaha, Gemeinhardt, Jupiter, Conn-Selmer

Clarinet: Yamaha, Buffet, Conn-Selmer

Alto Saxophone: Yamaha, Jupiter, Selmer

Trumpet: Yamaha, Conn-Selmer, Bach

Trombone: Yamaha, Conn-Selmer, Bach

Percussion (bell kit): Ludwig, Yamaha, Vic First, Innovative Percussion

DO - Email Mr. Farrell before purchasing an instrument - tfarrell@spusd.net

**THE DANGERS OF INSTRUMENT
SHAPED OBJECTS**



1. Avoid off-brand instruments found at discount retail stores and many online sources.
2. There are many ISO's (Instrument Shaped Objects) that look like a real band instruments, but are not.
3. ISO's will not play in tune with other band instruments.
4. A student who plays on an ISO will not be able to produce a good, clear sound on the Instrument.
5. An ISO will not allow your child to improve and progress as they should.
6. Please purchase your instrument from a reputable musical instrument company. See the additional sheet for local music stores.

What can you expect when you purchase an ISO? (Instrument Shaped Object)

1. It is made with poor materials, soft metals, and non-standard parts.
2. Being made with non-standard parts, means that when it needs to be repaired, it will cost more – much more!
3. Because of the soft, inferior, non-standard parts and materials – many instrument repair shops cannot and will not repair these instruments.

As always, I am happy to answer any questions you have, even over the summer!
Looking forward to next year!

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