

# South Pasadena 5th Grade Band

Welcome to that exclusive club known as band parents! I hope this will be a rewarding experience for both you and your child. We are all looking forward to an outstanding musical experience this year, but we need your help and support. Your interest and reinforcement of your child's achievements on their instrument is crucial in influencing musical progress. This letter will acquaint you with some of the aspects of the instrumental music program in South Pasadena.

1. Instruments may be rented at several local music stores. The stores that we trust and have been used in the past are listed on the bottom of this form.
2. Practice at home is very important, and each student is expected to practice 100 minutes per week.
3. Each student will receive the method book we use. The book is Essential Elements 2000, Book 1
4. Please help your child remember to bring their instrument and music folder to their two weekly lessons. Missing just one or two lessons can cause the student to fall behind.
5. Care should be given to keep the instrument in top working condition. If you have any questions regarding your child's instrument, please contact me.
6. Just after the holidays I will be handing out an evaluation of your child's progress. The decision can be made at that time whether to continue in band.

\*Percussionists will need to rent a BELL KIT. No need to get a snare drum. They need xylophone, practice pad, plastic bell mallets and snare drum sticks. Brands I recommend specifically for percussion are: Pearl, Ludwig, Yamaha, Vic Firth, Innovative Percussion

**To sign up, go to [www.tigercubband.weebly.com/5th-grade-band.html](http://www.tigercubband.weebly.com/5th-grade-band.html)**

**All sign up will be online, so be sure to sign your student up by the end of this school year! (June 9th)**

Lessons will begin the week of September 11th.

## **Local Music Stores:**

Johnny Thompson Music  
222 E. Garvey Ave  
Monterey Park  
626-280-8783  
[www.johnnythompsonmusic.com](http://www.johnnythompsonmusic.com)

Music and Arts  
842 West Arrow Highway  
San Dimas, CA 91773  
(909)599-0325  
[www.musicarts.com](http://www.musicarts.com)

(Music and Arts also operates out of  
Guitar Center Pasadena on Colorado)

Charles Music  
421 N. Glendale Ave  
Glendale  
848-242-6597  
[www.charlesmusicstore.com](http://www.charlesmusicstore.com)

San Marino Music Center  
2575 Mission St  
South Pasadena, CA 91030  
[www.sanmarinomusiccenter.com](http://www.sanmarinomusiccenter.com)

Bertrand's Music  
145 Vista Ave  
Pasadena, CA 91107  
[www.bertrandsmusic.com](http://www.bertrandsmusic.com)

BEWARE Instrument Shaped  
Objects! There are TONS of  
poorly made instruments on  
the market now. Your  
student's musical experience  
needs a quality instrument!  
Please email me for brand  
recommendations if you are  
unsure!

[kcoughlin@spusd.net](mailto:kcoughlin@spusd.net)

## **Instrument Tips:**

- ◆ Choose instruments that are of good quality. If you have questions about a brand, email Miss Coughlin! (kcoughlin@spusd.net)
- ◆ Beware of a deal that is “too good to be true”. It could be a low quality instrument.
- ◆ If you have an older instrument at home, get it “tuned up” at a local music store to make sure it is in working condition.
- ◆ Online sources will work, be sure it is an approved brand, and it wouldn’t hurt to get it checked out at the local music store after receiving it.
- ◆ Most music stores offer rental programs. Those are a great option to get a great brand, and pay for it over time.

**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! I recommend renting a quality brand to start their 5th grade year. Renting is often \$20-\$40 a month, and are usually rent-to-own programs with free repairs during the rental period. Shop around the local music stores, make sure you’re getting the best deal on a quality instrument!

**The only instrument brands approved for use with SPUSD are:** Yamaha, Selmer, Bundy, Conn, King, Armstrong, Gemeinhardt, Buffet, Jupiter, Buescher, LeBlanc, Blessing, Olds, Bach, Eastman. If the brand is not listed, do **NOT** purchase or rent it, quality of instrument is vital to success!

**I cannot stress enough the importance of getting a QUALITY instrument for your student!**

## **Interested in getting a head start?**

Sign up for SPEF Summer School! Beginning Band meets 1st period and is a great way to get started learning your instrument now! These students will learn quite a bit over the summer, and be set up to become leaders when the school year begins.

Go to [www.spef4kids.org](http://www.spef4kids.org) to sign up today!



## Is There a Difference in Musical Instruments?

**YES!!**

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.
7. 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.



**Don't Get Stuck With A Lemon!**

