



Martin Blount
Director of Bands

Samantha Charriez
Band Director

23070 Learning Circle
Ashburn, VA 20148

Dear Rising Sixth Grade Band Families,

Welcome and congratulations on joining the Brambleton Middle School band program! The Brambleton band directors are thrilled to be a part of your student's first band experience. Although your student will have one main director, at Brambleton Middle your student has the very special opportunity to learn and be supported by two band directors. We hope that your student's first year in band sparks a life-long appreciation and enjoyment of music and arts. As members of a 500-piece Band, our musicians will Create, Lead, Inspire, Motivate, and Believe, in a way that will make our band program one of the finest in Loudoun County and Virginia. Within our school, band members will be leaders in their other classes as they transfer the hard work and dedication required to be a successful musician into the other academic disciplines. A long tradition of excellence for the Brambleton Bands will begin with you.

The initial year of instruction involves learning the fundamentals of musical literacy, sound production, and musical expression. These skill sets take time to development and require a long-term commitment for success. Learning to play an instrument is not a one-year endeavor. Our hope is that it becomes a lifelong journey for many of you. It is our goal to develop in all students a love and appreciation for music, and we are elated to begin this with you all in August.

In this letter, you will find important information regarding instrument rentals for sixth grade band, specific instrument supplies, private lessons, and where to find important information. Please feel free to contact either band directors if you have any questions or concerns.

Participation in band will provide a lifetime of enrichment. We are eagerly looking forward to the new school year and we hope that your student is also excited to make music with the Brambleton band!

Musically Yours,
The Brambleton Band Directors

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INSTRUMENT RENTALS FOR SIXTH GRADE BAND

- The following instruments are rented (or purchased *after consulting with the band director*) from a local music store or reputable online store – **must be done before the school year begins.**
 - Flute
 - Oboe
 - Clarinet
 - Trumpet
 - Trombone
- The following instruments are rented through Brambleton Middle School:
 - Bassoon
 - French horn
 - Baritone
 - Tuba
- Percussionists rent a percussion kit through Washington Music and purchase a stick bag for carrying drumsticks and mallets to & from school.
 - **Rent the Xylophone Kit at www.rentfromchucks.com (website scheduled to open August 15, please indicate your child is a Brambleton MS student, and the store will deliver the kit to school for you)**

*****For REQUIRED instrument supplies, go to the next page.*****

**Renting online from Music and Arts – Please order your instrument ASAP
– All Loudoun students will be renting their instruments too.**

1. Go to www.musicarts.com
2. Click on the RENTALS tab
3. Enter the Brambleton zip code: 20148
4. Select the student's grade: 6
5. Click on: Brambleton Middle School
6. Select Delivery Time: Fall Delivery
7. Select your instrument and follow the directions on the website.

To rent from a local music store, go to the store and ask an employee about their rental program.

LOCAL MUSIC STORES (A&A in Brambleton Town Center)

Music and Arts
703-779-4905
617 Potomac Station
Drive, NE Suite B,
Leesburg, VA 20176

Minton's Music
703-723-1154
21690 Red Rum Drive,
Suite 157, Ashburn, VA
20147

A&A Music
703-722-2242
22895 Brambleton Plaza,
Suite 107, Ashburn, VA
20148

REQUIRED INSTRUMENT SUPPLIES – most can be found on Amazon

ALL STUDENTS:

- “Hal Leonard’s Essential Elements for Band, Book 1” for your child’s specific instrument
- Metronome/Tuner- Phone App: “Tonal Energy” \$5.99 (there are also free apps)
- Not required but highly recommended for practice: Portable wire music stand

FLUTE: Cleaning/tuning rod, silk swab, polishing cloth

OBOE: Silk swab (the kind that pulls through the entire instrument, not two separate swabs): [Link HERE](#), cork grease, Jones MEDIUM-SOFT reeds (at least 2) or reeds purchased through private teacher, reed soaking cup (salad dressing container or any small container works as well)

CLARINET: Silk swab, cork grease, Mitchell Lurie 5-pack: [Link HERE!](#)

BASSOON: Silk body swab, Jones MEDIUM-SOFT reeds (at least 2) or reeds purchased through private teacher, reed soaking cup (salad dressing container or any small container works as well)

TRUMPET: Yamaha Synthetic Valve Oil, polishing cloth, tuning slide grease, cleaning snake, mouthpiece brush

FRENCH HORN: Rotor oil, polishing cloth, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush

TROMBONE: Slide-O-Mix Rapid Comfort, tuning slide grease, polishing cloth, mouthpiece brush, cleaning snake

BARITONE/TUBA: Yamaha Synthetic Valve Oil, tuning slide grease, polishing cloth, mouthpiece brush

PERCUSSION: Stick Bag (search “stick bag” on Amazon – many for less than \$15)