

CLMS Band!

Hello,

My name is Quaneka Conyers. I am the band director here at Chestnut Log Middle School. If you are receiving this information, you have a future musician on your hands! I wanted to provide information to the parents about the involvement that is required for success.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns!

The first thing I want to share is the financial aspect. It does affect a student's ability to participate, but I want to preface this by saying that if **any financial help is needed, please reach out to me**. We host multiple fundraisers, we have sponsors and I work hard to make sure money doesn't stop a student's love for music! We have an annual fee that can be paid online or in person by cash or check made out to CLMS. That fee of **\$25** covers t-shirt, bowties (formal uniform), music, special supplies that are needed with instruments, repair services, extra backup reeds, books and oil, and extra activities hosted throughout the year.

Another financial aspect is getting needed materials.

1. This year each student will need drumsticks. Vic Firth SD1 sticks can be ordered from me for **\$9**, but any drumsticks will do. This can be purchased at any music store.
2. We also use Essential Elements Book 1 (for all 3 years). This book is the yellow version and has to be for your student's specific instrument. (If you don't know what they'll play, wait to purchase) It costs about **\$10** and can be ordered from me or from any music store.
3. Uniform. Students will need a pair of jeans, a pair of black dress shoes, black dress pants, black button down shirt and a white button down shirt. (Bowties will be provided)
4. Instruments range in cost and luckily we have a few music stores that provide Rent-To-Own services to help. I ask that you get brands that are listed in this packet as the brand of

an instrument affects your students' success. (Walmart and Amazon instruments can not be fixed, If the instrument is a weird color (blue trumpets and pink clarinets) it will sound bad (made cheap))

There are certain instruments that students own and some that the school owns. Let me know if a specific instrument is out of your range or if the fee ever becomes too much. Flyers from the music companies that work with our school to help families rent to own are attached. You can find their monthly costs through phone or online. This is ideal as they provide repair services as well. It also helps students with continuing their education. If an instrument is owned by the school, there's a \$75 rental fee for the year. (covers cleaning and repairs) This can be paid in **three \$25 monthly payments**, again online or with cash or check made out to CLMS.

School Owned three \$25 monthly payments	Student Owned Depends on Instrument, Brand and Company
Bass Clarinet Tenor Saxophone Baritone Saxophone French Horn Euphonium Tuba	Flute Soprano Clarinet Alto Saxophone Trumpet Trombone Percussion

SUCCESSFUL INSTRUMENT BRANDS

Flute: Gemeinhardt, Bundy, Jupiter, Armstrong, Yamaha, Eastman

Clarinet: Selmer, Bundy, LeBlanc, Buffet, Yamaha, Armstrong

Alto Saxophone: Selmer, Yamaha, Jupiter, Bundy

Trumpet: Bach, Bundy, Getzen, Jupiter, Yamaha, Conn, Blessing, King, Eastman **Trombone:**

Bach, Yamaha, Conn, King, Jupiter, Getzen, Holton, Eastman **Percussion:** Look for companies such as Vic Firth and Innovative Percussion when purchasing Stick bag, concert snare drum sticks, hard plastic rubber mallets, soft yarn mallets, timpani mallets and a practice pad. (Guitar Center offers a Vic Firth EP2 Intermediate Education Pack set for less than \$100)

Once your student has expressed interest in a specific instrument, they should let me, Ms. Conyers know. Testing will take place the week of **8/23**. They can try out different instruments to ensure their success! Ms. Conyers will post in Remind a list explaining what everyone plays! If they end up on a student owned instrument, we will have a night for music companies to visit and explain the many programs they offer to help schools. If it's a school owned instrument, I will send home contracts. Sign contracts mean students can play an instrument, but first payment has to be made in order for them to take it home.

I also wanted parents to be aware of the time commitment. We do work during class every day, but also have after school rehearsals. These rehearsals are going to be very helpful for any new band members as they are building a skill. This is also my way to ensure they have an opportunity for one on one attention with their instrument as well as time playing with their peers. For fall, we have two days where I will be around from 4-6PM. Monday is 7th and 8th grade rehearsals and Wednesday is Beginner's rehearsal.

We also have about 3 performances each semester. For some performances, parents have to provide transportation to the event. You will know the performances ahead of time! We end each semester with a concert that is located at CLMS, but we invite parents out to support. These concerts are usually a Friday night at 7PM. Join our remind with the code @clmsband for all information pertaining to performances and practices! A Calendar of performances will be sent out soon.

I am so glad your student has expressed interest in the band! We'd love to have them join our band family. I wanted to give you all the information so that we can help them have a successful start! Please reach out if you have any questions. If not, return the last page of this letter so that their schedule can be changed!

Thank you,
Quaneka Conyers