Your School NAme Performing Arts  
123 Main Street   
AnyTOWN, ST 12345  
555-555-5555

To the parents of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

Thank you for attending our recent Instrument Fittings! Based on the instrument fitting, we are ***very pleased*** to be able to recommend **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**for participation inPerforming Arts on **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

Please plan now to attend our *Band and Orchestra Enrollment Night Meeting* on **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ p.m.** in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. We have a great deal of information to share with both parent and student. At the meeting you will also be able to make arrangements for instrument rental, purchase accessories and instructional materials, and learn about the music program and summer classes. Please enter using entrance #\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ side of the building.

During the meeting, we like to specifically discuss with the students the level of commitment they are making as they enter the Performing Arts program at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School. We will share our expectations with the students and at the end of the evening will ask that they sign a commitment card. Below you will find the text of the card. We ask that you take time as a family to discuss these expectations prior to the meeting.

*As a member of the Band or Orchestra, I promise to . . .*

* + *Make an honest effort to learn to play my instrument.*
  + *Practice my instrument at home for 15-20 minutes each day.*
  + *Give my best effort every day in class.*
  + *Ask for help from my teacher or parents if I need it.*
  + *Make at least a one-year commitment to playing my instrument* (but we hope it will be longer!)

We are looking forward to seeing you on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! In the meantime, please read through the enclosed materials and contact us with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Your Name

Director

**Beginning Band and Orchestra Fact Sheet**

1. ***When are classes held?*** Type your answer here
2. ***What about private lessons?*** Private lessons are not required, but are recommended and an asset to any student learning a new instrument.  You can find a list of local teachers at this link.
3. ***How much will it cost to get my child started with an instrument and accessories?***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Instrument** | **Accessries** | **Rental (new)** | **Rental (used)** | |
| Violin |  |  |  |
| Viola |  |  |  |
| Cello |  |  |  |
| String Bass |  |  |  |
| Flute |  |  |  |
| Oboe |  |  |  |
| Bassoon |  |  |  |
| Clarinet |  |  |  |
| Alto Sax |  |  |  |
| Tenor Sax |  |  |  |
| Trumpet |  |  |  |
| French Horn |  |  |  |
| Trombone |  |  |  |
| Baritone/ Euphonium |  |  |  |
| Tuba |  |  |  |
| Percussion Kit |  |  |  |

1. ***We have a used instrument at home. Is it OK for our child to play it?*** Please make sure that any instrument you are considering is of good quality and in good repair. The early stages of playing an instrument are challenging, and an inferior instrument can cause extra frustration for your child. It is best to have your used instrument checked out by a certified music repair technician and any repairs completed prior to the start of classes. If you will bring your instrument with you to enrollment night, we are happy to inspect it to make certain it is appropriate for your child’s use. The music store will also be here to provide you with a repair estimate if you desire.
2. ***What should we know before purchasing an instrument?*** Most parents will choose to rent an instrument rather than purchase one right away. If you decide to purchase, you should know that there are a number of very low-quality instruments that have been flooding the market in recent years. Many of these instruments are advertised on internet auction sites or found at discount stores or wholesale clubs. While these instruments appear to be an inexpensive alternative, they almost always become a source of frustration for due to their poor construction and non-standard parts. These instruments often play very out of tune, have an inferior sound and generally cannot be repaired! We have, unfortunately, seen several families purchase an instrument of this type, only to find in a few months that it is no longer usable. Before making a purchase, parents are strongly encouraged to contact the music office for information about recommended brands of instruments and trusted dealers. You should also check with the place of purchase to make sure they can provide quality repair for the instrument.
3. ***How much time should my child devote to practicing at home?*** Home practice is important to your child’s success. Students who maintain a regular practice routine enjoy their music class more and demonstrate more consistent progress. An average of 15-20 minutes per day is recommended for the beginning student.
4. ***Can my child participate in instrumental music and sports/ after school clubs?*** YES! Because band and orchestra classes meet during the school day, there is no conflict with sports or other after school activities. Our evening activities are limited to three or four times per year when we present our concerts. Dates for these events will be given to parents the first week of school.