

Attention incoming NLMS Band Families:

My name is Melissa Gamage and I have been the band teacher here at NLMS for the past 13 years. I am sure you are going to love being in band at NLMS, and I am looking forward to meeting you next year. However before doing so, there is some important information that I need you to read over regarding renting an instrument and getting a band method book.

On Wednesday, May 11th, we will be holding an instrument selection/rental night at **Lake Stevens High School** from **4pm - 7pm**. This is a drop by meeting where you can come any time, usually for about 30 minutes. Ted Brown music store representatives, district music teachers, and high school students will be available to help you try out different instruments and have an opportunity to rent directly from Ted Brown, as well as **purchase the band method book** (see below) and buy any cleaning kits/accessories.

If you can not attend the Instrument Night on May 11th it's OK! We'll schedule another opportunity to try out instruments in the Fall.

If renting that night, students can either pick up from a Ted Brown store in the next few days (closest is North Seattle) or wait until **August 20 and 21st** to receive their already rented instrument at **Little Viking Band Camp at the High School**. At this event, all incoming beginning band students from Northlake and LSMS are invited to learn the basics on their instruments, meet other students/all district band teachers, and even perform in a first concert on the 21st. More details of this night will come shortly.

Upon coming to school next year, it is each student's responsibility to rent an instrument, as well as obtain a band method book. Currently, our band program allows for Flute, Clarinet, Alto Sax (only a small amount will be accepted), Trumpet, Trombone, and Baritone. While I have available instruments to rent out to students who may struggle to afford renting, I recommend that parents rent through a local music store with a repair plan if possible. I also recommend you do NOT purchase an instrument for your Beginning Band student. It is best to wait until the 2nd year of playing before purchasing an instrument.

Once you have decided on an instrument you would like to play, please fill out the: [Instrument Rental Form 2022](#)

PLEASE NOTE INFORMATION REGARDING PERCUSSION/DRUMS:

This year we are looking forward to getting everyone started on a wind instrument so that they can stay engaged in learning to read music with the rest of the class, and then when the time is right we will do a drumming/rhythm curriculum where we learn to read drum music as well as give auditions for prospective percussion students. At that time, students who are interested in switching over to percussion will have an opportunity to do so after auditioning. So please, hold off on renting any percussion kits or drums for now, thank you!

Ted Brown Music:

We work closely with Ted Brown music in our school district. If anything ever happens to your student's instrument or they need repairs/a quick replacement, a representative will drive to our school to pick up and drop off instruments. The closest Ted Brown music store is in North Seattle. For renting convenience, here is a link to an online rental form that you can use through Ted Brown:

<https://www.tedbrownmusic.com/topic/instrument-rentals>

For band books, at LSMS and NLMS we use "**Sound Innovations for Beginning Band, Book 1**":

This can be purchased at our instrument rental night on May 11th, or on amazon for around \$10. Please note - you MUST purchase the book written for YOUR INSTRUMENT! Here is a link to an example book. This is a trumpet book as an example:

<https://www.amazon.com/Sound-Innovations-Concert-Band-Revolutionary/dp/0739067311>

(Remember - this book is for trumpet only. You must select the matching instrument that your student has chosen when purchasing a book.)

I am very excited to get to meet you all next year. Until then, if you have any questions about any of this please feel free to ask at any time! Thank you for your time and understanding! I hope to see all students and parents, if you can make it, on **Wednesday May 11th** anytime from 4-7pm for our rental night.

Sincerely,

Melissa Gamage