

Panhandle Panther Bands

The Pride of Panhandle
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Dear Fifth Grade Parents:

It's time again to begin testing all Fifth Grade students for the 2010-2011 6th Grade Beginning Band! In the coming weeks your child will be screened on various instruments in order to determine the best placement for him or her in the beginning band classes.

You are encouraged to discuss carefully with your child their top three instrument choices for the beginning band classes. We would then ask you to put this information on the enclosed form.

Below you will see a standard instrumentation list of the Panhandle Jr. High School 6th Grade Beginning Band. Sections with high numbers indicate the most need for that instrument during a particular year. As you will also see, we have only a given amount of space in any one section. The reason for those preset numbers is to ensure properly balanced bands not just at the beginning level but at all levels --- 6th Grade Beginning Band, 7th/8th Grade Concert Band, and the Pride of Panhandle Bands at the high school level. The list is based on a current recorder class of up to 50 students. It would break down as follows:

INSTRUMENT	NUMBER OF CHAIRS
Flute	3
Clarinet	9
Saxophone	4
Cornet/Trumpet	8
French Horn	8
Trombone	8
Baritone	3
Tuba	3
Percussion	4
TOTAL	50

At the discretion of the directors, the numbers in the above list are at any time subject to change. The directors also determine the flexibility of these preset instrumentation numbers on a case by case basis. We will make every effort to place your child on one of his or her three choices, based first on his or her physical suitability to those instruments, and second, on space availability in that instrument section. If for any reason we must explore different instruments than the ones listed on your form, every effort will be made to find an alternate one that will promote a successful experience for your child.

Please refer to the **"Frequently Asked Questions"** page on the reverse side of this letter for more information.

All of the directors are encouraged about the possibilities for next year, and we look forward to the upcoming testing process. Once the testing process is completed, we will be sending home more complete information on the makeup of the 6th Grade Beginning Band.

In order for your child to be eligible for testing, we ask that you please sign, date, and return this completed form to us **before Friday, April 23rd, 2010**. Please call 670-7135 if you have any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to work with your children each day.

Sincerely,

Robert Chapleau