



**BARKER CENTRAL SCHOOL
INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT
FALL 2020**



Dear Parent/Guardian:

Congratulations! Your student has shown an interest in participating in the Barker Central School Band Program. During these unique times, BCS is proud to be able to offer beginning instrumental lessons to interested students. Playing a musical instrument is an enriching experience in all areas of students' lives, and the instrumental program at BCS has a tradition of superior quality!

First and foremost, it is important to know that the instructors and administrators at BCS are committed to providing quality band lessons while maintaining all safety protocols. Instrumental students are spaced TWELVE feet apart, as per multiple instrumental aerosol studies' recommendations. Instruments will utilize bell covers, essentially a mask for the instrument. Fifth through 12th grade band students are already using these protocols at school successfully.

January of 2021 is when beginning lessons will start. The goal is to have all instruments, lesson books, and schedules secured prior to our winter break in December, so that upon return to school in January, students can begin lessons. All beginning students will receive TWO lessons per week:

-Cohort 1 and 2 will have one in-person lesson per week on one of the days the student attends school. Cohort 1 and 2 will also receive one Zoom lesson per week on one of the days the student is at home with online instruction.

-Cohort 3 will have the opportunity to attend twice per week Zoom instruction. I will consult with Cohort 3 parents to determine if this method is best for your student. If it is determined your Cohort 3 student would be better suited with some in-person instruction, you may be advised to wait until a later date to begin an instrument.

Readiness to begin an instrument: The decision to begin a musical instrument should be made with full awareness of the commitment entailed. Please read the following over carefully with your student:

-Musical instruments are valuable items that need to be handled carefully and respectfully. Most students will rent or purchase an instrument at their parents' expense. Please note rental information below.

-Students in the band program are expected to practice their instruments daily. Parents will be asked to sign a weekly practice log.

-Beginning students are expected to attend one weekly 30-minute in-person lesson on the in-person day, and one weekly Zoom lesson on the at-home day. Lesson schedules will be given to students, families, and teachers.

Primary Band: Primary Band is a large group band for the beginning students. Due to scheduling constraints, Primary Band may not be able to meet this school year. The goal at this time is to give students the opportunity to begin learning instruments. If and When Primary Band is able to start up, you will be notified in plenty of time.

INSTRUMENT RENTAL AND COSTS: There are **MANY** options to acquiring an instrument:

****RENTAL:** You may wish to rent an instrument. You can choose a rental source that you prefer and there are many available. For BCS purposes and possibly your convenience, Twin Village Music, 44 Central Ave., Lancaster, 14086 (716) 683-4879, will be our school's instrument rental source. Rental instruments can be picked up by you or delivered to school. The following costs apply to the rental period of JANUARY through JUNE 2021. The cost for a full year is more. Twin Village has created this pricing for a six-month unique need. The rental option at Twin Village can be done completely online by going to their website.

FLUTE	\$79.00 + tax and fees = \$94.61
CLARINET	\$79.00 + tax and fees = \$94.61
ALTO SAXOPHONE	\$119.00 + tax and fees = \$142.66
TRUMPET	\$79.00 + tax and fees = \$94.61
TROMBONE	\$79.00 + tax and fees = \$94.61

*******If you plan to rent from Twin Village, there is an ALL-Online Rental Link. Do not send checks or money to school. The rental will be a contract between you and the store.

****PURCHASE:** Some families prefer to purchase an instrument. A used instrument can be purchased for a reasonable price from many sources, including music stores, music repair shops, craigslist, Ebay. Twin Village Music Store has many quality used instruments they are offering for sale. **PLEASE** let us know if you are interested in this option as we can direct you toward brands and models that have stood the test of time, and steer you away from flimsy or low quality instruments that will only frustrate your student.

******Baritone Horns (low brass) are available to borrow from BCS. A few students may be able to start on Baritone this year. No beginners will be able to start on percussion, Tuba, or French Horn due to timing and instrument availability this year.

If you **OWN** an instrument that your child would like to play, please contact Mrs. Johnson about that option.

Lesson books: You will be sent a link to order your student's lesson book

Reeds (used with Clarinets and Saxophones): You will be sent a link to order reeds if your student will be playing a reed instrument.

Once it is determined what instrument your student will begin:

- You will receive paperwork to help you with options for acquiring an instrument, lessons books, and reeds (clarinet/saxophone).**
- Please do not purchase an instrument without consulting with us first to be sure you are getting one of quality.**
- You and your student will be added to "Primary Band" Google Classroom. This will be helpful in communication.**

Please return the attached Registration Form ASAP or before Friday Nov. 20. You can send the hard copy to school or Email it to cjohnson@barkerbsd.net. From Nov. 9-30, Mrs. Johnson will confirm program participation and instrument choice through conferences with teachers, students and/or parents. Once instrument choice is confirmed, Mrs. Johnson will give the student paperwork with all the information referred to above and add you to "Primary Band" Google Classroom.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 795-3201, ext. 5303 or cjohnson@barkerbsd.net . Thank you for your support of music education at BCS!

Sincerely,
Cheryl Johnson,
Barker Band Director

