

Penn Manor School District

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO STARTING AN INSTRUMENT



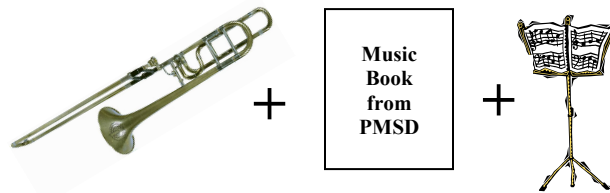
1. Complete the online INSTRUMENT REGISTRATION FORM by August 29. Return orange/paper forms to your child's music teacher by September 3.

Your child is officially "signed up" for in-school lessons when the electronic OR hard copy form is submitted!

2. Secure an Instrument.

We recommend renting the instrument for at least the first year of study. Many local music stores offer rental programs. Menchey Music offers "rent to own" for band instruments and "lease to purchase" for string instruments. Menchey rentals can be started online, in the store, or over the phone. We strongly discourage the purchase of inexpensive, new instruments from online or in big-box stores. If it only costs \$100 and it's new, then it's "too good to be true" as a quality investment. The hard lesson of "not repairable" has also been learned with the non-brand instruments.

If you already have an instrument, you must have the instrument inspected by your music teacher to determine if it is in proper playing condition. (Sometimes previously played instruments need repairs.) Please make sure any repairs are completed before your child's first lesson.



PLEASE keep the "new to you" instrument in the case until the first lesson.

3. Purchase or borrow a music stand.

- Penn Manor will provide a lesson book:
 - All STRING Instruments: *Essential Elements, Book 1* – published by Hal Leonard
 - All BAND Instruments: *Sound Innovations, Book 1* – published by Alfred
- The music stand will create a dedicated practice space for the new instrumentalist to develop good posture and concentration.

4. Go to your first school lesson.

- Lesson times will be assigned in September.
- Lessons meet one time per 6 - 8 day cycle for 20 minutes.
- Lessons will NOT be scheduled during "specials" (library, art, physical education, music, applied engineering).

5. PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE. Students are expected to make a one-year commitment.

As with any new activity, there are ups and downs. Sometimes practice will come easy and sometimes it will feel like work. Don't give up! You might experience frustration, but practicing regularly and attending lessons will increase your chances of success. As with beginning any new physical program, the most benefit is gained from short, frequent practice sessions. Please follow the guidelines offered by the instructor for beginning expectations.

Parents: Communication with your child's music teacher(s) is essential. We want your child to succeed. Please contact the instructor *before* your child reaches a quitting point! We can provide strategies to help ease practice struggles and build your child's confidence.

Please subscribe to your music teachers' blogs! This will help with schedules and expectations.