

**COME TO THE PARENTS MEETING**  
**&**  
**MEET THE DIRECTORS**  
**GET ANSWERS TO**  
**FAQs**  
(frequently asked questions)

1. **What instruments are available for my child to play?** Instruments available for band (4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>) are oboe, flute, Clarinet, saxophone, French horn, trumpet, trombone, baritone, tuba, and drum. Instruments available for strings (3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>) are violin and viola.
2. **How do we rent or purchase an instrument?** The two stores that service the Baldwin-Whitehall elementary Music Department are Progressive Music and Volkwein's. These stores will deliver the instrument to your school. You may, however, acquire an instrument through any means that you desire. If you decide to purchase, feel free to contact us for advice.
3. **How are lessons scheduled?** The majority of the students are scheduled during their flex times. Due to the time it takes to receive the rental instruments from the store, lessons usually begin during the last week in September. Information will be sent home stating the day, time, and start date of the lesson.
4. **Are students permitted to play in both band and orchestra?** Yes, this is possible. All of the teachers involved will work together to establish a schedule for the student.
5. **Is there a method book used during the lessons?** Yes, and these books will be available for purchase from your band/orchestra teacher at school.
6. **How often should my student practice at home?** We recommend that a young musician should practice 15 – 30 minutes, 5 days per week.
7. **Should my child use a music stand when they practice?** It is very important to use a music stand at home. This will help reinforce the correct posture that is used during our weekly lessons. Music stands are available for purchase on the instrument rental form.
8. **Are there any performances?** There will be a number of performance opportunities throughout the year. Your child's instrumental music teacher will provide performance information.
9. **How can parents help their children practice?** It is very important to establish a consistent practice routine from the beginning. Perhaps, have your daily practice right after school or before dinner. If time permits, listen to your child practice and ask them to teach you what they are learning. Try requesting one of your favorite songs (from the book, of course!).
10. **Who are the instrumental music teachers and how do we contact them?**  
Mr. Alan Booth (strings) – Whitehall Elementary (412-885-7525) – Paynter Elementary (412-885-7537)  
Mr. Allan Link (band) – Paynter Elementary (412-885-7535)  
Mrs. Debbie Vavrek (band) – Whitehall Elementary (412-885-7525)