



**L.B. Johnson Middle School**  
Band Program

Welcome back!

I am so excited to have your student in band for another year! Despite the challenges we are facing, this group has so much potential to play and perform wonderful music while still growing important life skills that they will carry with them into higher education. The school year will look a lot differently than prior years due to the current state of the COVID-19 pandemic, but I ensure that your student is safe in band class, as I have worked hard to take every precaution and provide a safe environment with the proper PPE (Personal Protective Equipment). Many of you already know the wonderful benefits of band, and I truly cannot wait to get started!

Now before the school year begins, I wanted to touch base on the financial obligations that band class requires. As you may remember, I work diligently to keep costs low so all students can participate in band. Because we are faced with the COVID-19 pandemic, it is essential that students are renting or purchasing their own instrument. I have already sorted school-owned instruments so that there is no sharing between students. This includes the following instruments: Tenor/Bari Saxophone, Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, French Horn, Euphonium and Tuba. These school-owned instruments must be rented through the school, and each student (with a few exceptions) will have 2. One will be kept at the school, the other will stay at your home. This will come to \$60 per semester (\$30 per instrument).

If your student plays an instrument that is not mentioned above, you must rent or purchase your own instrument from a local music store or website. I am not able to provide as much financial assistance to those who need it this year, and I wanted to be upfront with you all about this. Our local music store, The Horn Section, has many options that average to about \$25-35 per month. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding this, please feel free to contact me.

Mr. Alex Widener

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Despite all of the challenges we are facing this year, I am still excited to welcome all of you back. I would love to hear from you, do not hesitate to send me an email. Even a simple hello would be great!

Looking forward to seeing you!

Alex Widener, Director of Bands