

Dear parents and students,

My name is Nachel Konemann and I am the Director of Bands at Strickland Middle School. We have been waiting for approval to do our instrument testing since March. However, due to the safety and security of all students/families, we have decided to have the Strickland Middle School beginner band instrument selections virtually. After a long meeting about the subject, we have determined that this will be the best route for upcoming Viking Band members. I feel confident that we will be able to place students into the appropriate class.

The process will be quite simple. You will fill out the provided google form titled "Beginner Band Virtual Instrument Selection". On this form, you will answer questions that include the physical appearance of your child, their interests, and their experiences. Please also be prepared to upload pictures of the student's face and hands. This process will take at least 30 minutes and requires involvement from both the student and a parent/guardian.

In order to best select an instrument for your student, we need the pictures to help us see their facial features and the size of their hands. Not every student is capable of playing every instrument due to his or her unique facial structure. An example that I like to give: Ms. Konemann struggles to play the tuba because she has thin lips, but she can play trombone. Mr. Davis, our trombone private lesson teacher, is very tall so playing the trombone is easier for him.

We want to ensure that each student is placed on an instrument that they will be successful at during their career in band!

Once you fill out the google form and provide the pictures, you will be asked to pick four instruments that your child is interested in playing. Please make sure you watch the instructional video in the google form as it will describe and demonstrate each instrument. While you are watching the video, we recommend writing down the instruments your child is interested in learning. Instrument choices are Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Oboe, Bassoon, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, or Percussion. Students interested in percussion will be placed on another instrument until our percussion director can interview each student individually. We ask that you pick four so we can ensure that the instrument selected for each student is one that they are interested in learning. The link is below.

The directors will pick an instrument that your child is best suited for based on your google form and pictures submitted. Once an instrument has been selected for your student, a director will contact you with information on how to obtain an instrument. Depending on the instrument family, you will either rent from Strickland MS OR a music store such as Williamson 1st or Music & Arts. If you already have an instrument please make sure the directors know. Pawn shops and facebook marketplace

are also excellent places to get quality instruments BUT we ask that you send a director a link to the instrument before you purchase so we can let you know if you are getting a good deal. You can also visit our website under “Supply List” for more information.

If a parent and/or student does not submit a google form, the directors will place the student into a class based on the information they already have. This will be up to the director’s discretion. Parents will be responsible for any additional paperwork and instrument rentals at the beginning of the school year.

Parents and students will be notified by the end of July of their child’s placement. We will need time to review each form to ensure that all students are selected for the appropriate class.

Counselors will be notified about the instrument selected for your child. They will be placed into a homogeneous class with their instrument. Every beginner class at Strickland is “instrument alike” to make the experience easier for every student.

I appreciate your patience on this matter. I know that this is a difficult time for everyone; however, I still want to make sure that every student enjoys his or her experience in the Strickland Band! I am always available for questions. Thank you for being flexible in this ever-changing situation of COVID-19. Please contact me at nkonemann@dentonisd.org if you have any questions or concerns.

GOOGLE FORM REQUIRED:

[Strickland Beginner Band Virtual Instrument Selection](#)

If the link doesn’t work, try typing this into your browser.
<https://forms.gle/zxpMjm8SXjkL2PFB7>