

Oct. 4, 2021

Dear parents,

Now that we have instruments in hand, we're ready (and excited) to get on to the musical learning. I've already sent a couple notes home that have include info/suggestions to help set your child up for success. They are common sense in many ways, but a great starting point for everyone to go over. With only one, 40 min. class per week it will be even more important for regular practice to be happening at home.

While I will be giving specific instructions in class, there will also be many online resources made avail. to help assist students. Please help your child by reminding/encouraging them to access them.

- 1) Essential Elements resources and support files are available through the website listed inside the book.
- 2) Students should also go back and revisit the introductory files I cited previously, this time looking at their specific instrument in detail.
- 3) The US Army Band has a great set of beginners resources ([click here](#)) (or https://www.youtube.com/c/usarmyband/playlists?view=50&sort=dd&shelf_id=6)

Masking: modified playing masks are best and least disruptive for student learning, and there are a couple ways to pursue this...

1. If you'd like to sew a mask from scratch, here is a link (<http://www.unitedsound.org/mask>) for sewing instructions.
2. Regular fabric masks can be modified by cutting a slit (vertically for brass instruments, horizontally for reeds) approx. 3cm. Then, above the slit, sew on a small fabric 'flap' along the top edge only, that will hang down and cover the mouthpiece opening when students are not playing. (see sample photo)
3. flute masks are tougher to makes, the above link has instructions at the bottom, but we have flute specific masks avail. for \$10.00

We will be using both Teams and MusicFirst -a music specific suite of tools- throughout this year. MusicFirst is a subscription service and costs \$15/year. Both MusicFirst and Flute masks may be paid through AHE schoolcashonline.

