

MBCI Band Instrument Rental Fee Policy

Andrew Klassen

This information is for MBCI band students who are currently making use of an MBCI-owned instrument. At some point, you may receive an emailed invoice from the office of Aymee Koop, our Accounts Secretary, regarding band instrument rental charges. This would typically include players on piccolo, bassoon, bass clarinet, baritone saxophone, horn, euphonium, tuba, and percussion.

As you may be aware, MBCI has a generous policy of subsidizing these more expensive instruments, such that the cost is made comparable to renting the least expensive band instruments from a music store - flute, clarinet, trumpet, and trombone. Our aim is to make sure we can fill every instrumental section of each band, and that cost is not a factor in students making the commitment to play these much-needed instruments.

Our policy is as follows, and your rental charge will hopefully reflect this. Students who play MBCI-owned instruments pay a rental fee of \$175.00 per year, but only for the first three years they are in the program. After three years, students may continue to make use of the instrument free of charge. This amounts to an average of \$75.00 a year for students who enter the program in Grade 6 and continue through Grade 12, which is an incredible deal. As a result, a number of high school students will no longer be assessed a rental charge because their payments have concluded.

There are some further aspects to the rental policy making it even more attractive:

A student who has made the investment of purchasing (or continuing to rent) a band instrument, then is invited and agrees to play one of the above school-owned instruments to improve balance in the band, does not have to pay rent. An example of this would be a tenor saxophone player who made the investment and owns the instrument, possibly even considering themselves mainly a tenor player, but then helps out the balance of the band at school by filling a baritone saxophone position. Rent to the school would not be required.

Finally, we want to give our percussionists an incentive to purchase or rent a drum set, and to do regular practice on it. Percussionists will find that, in addition to all the other percussion instruments they are expected to be proficient on, drum set practice is a particularly efficient way to improve overall motor coordination and rhythmic control. Besides, one of our goals as a music department is for students to use their gifts in service to the Lord and others, and proficiency on the drum set is a skill that can lead to many opportunities to do this. As a result, students who make the significant investment to purchase a drum set are not charged rent at school. Connected to this, some percussionists, while not going out for an entire drum set, might purchase or rent a snare drum and stand, or a set of orchestral bells, both expenditures which begin to approach the cost of many woodwind or brass instruments. For these students, we also give them a break and reduce the rental fee from \$175.00 to \$87.50.

Please let us know if the rental fee you are assessed is appropriate as per the above policy. If there is a discrepancy, it is likely to be in the area of percussion, where we might assess you a fee despite the fact that you have obtained a drum set, etc. (If such a purchase occurred during the school year, a pro-rated rental charge could be assessed.) If you suspect in advance that we might get it wrong, please email us with current information to avoid having to make a correction later.

Sincerely,

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