



Mills Park Middle School Band  
Erik M. Riggs, Director  
441 Mills Park Dr  
Cary, NC 27519  
[www.millsparkbands.com/](http://www.millsparkbands.com/)  
(919)466-1500 ext 20816

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## BEGINNING BAND SYLLABUS

I've included information about the instrument process for beginning band.

*A word of advice from previous experience is to stay away from websites or Amazon deals that seem too good to be true. Band Director Approved is their favorite thing to put on the site and that is seldom true. Buying on Facebook Marketplace or Amazon makes it hard to tell if the instrument is working properly. If you have a question about any instrument, please use me as a resource. You can always reach me at ERiggs@wcpss.net.*

Obviously, we want an instrument that is in good working condition so that your child has a good opportunity for success.

### Beginning Band FAQ

- Beginning band is a year-long course.
- Instruments taught in the beginning band are flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone.. Upon director recommendation, students may move to other instruments (oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, saxophone, tuba, and percussion) after the first quarter.
- No prior musical experience is necessary for the beginning band.
- Our beginning band classes meet during the school day; students will not lose time in the other core subjects while in band.
- **Each beginning band student will need to supply their own instrument, instrument cleaning supplies, and band book.**
- Instruments should be in good playing condition. Those that are purchased from a source other than Hill's Music Shoppe should be approved by Mr. Riggs, as some instrument brands are very unreliable or difficult to repair.
- It is sometimes necessary to limit the number of students on a particular instrument to achieve proper balance of instrumentation.

Hill's Music Shoppe Cart for Mills Park Students:

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<https://www.hillsmusicshoppe.com/aerntschoolelect>

### Local Music Store Dealers

Necessary supplies may be purchased at any of the following:

Hill's Music Shoppe 51 US-158 BYP, Henderson, NC 27537

[Music and Arts](#) 426 Crossroads Boulevard, Cary 919-854-0024

[Music and Arts](#) Poyner Place 5950 Poyner Village Pkwy F101 , Raleigh 919-872-1601

Music and Arts is located in Garner now as well

[2112 Percussion](#) 1003 East Whitaker Mill Rd, Raleigh 919-833-0046

[Flying Squirrel Music](#) 2828 Capital Blvd Raleigh, NC 27604 919-615-3117

[Leechford Music](#) 216 East Chatham St, Cary, NC 27511

[Scott Sweeney Brass](#) 325 Clarendon Crescent Raleigh, NC 27610 919-617-6340

[Tuba Exchange](#) Alston Ave Durham 1-800-869-Tuba

## 2. Supplies (For All Mills Park Band Members)

All students should purchase:

- A music stand for at home practice
- The TonalEnergy app for a smart device (or a stand alone metronome and tuner) for home practice
- 1"-1.5" three ringer binder
- 20 clear document pages
- Pencils
- Additionally, there are cleaning supplies and accessories that are needed by each instrument, as listed in our Band Handbook on the website (please note...these will be available from Hill's Music Shoppe on the night of our rental meeting):

[http://www.millsparkbands.com/uploads/2/0/2/9/20298513/mpms\\_band\\_handbook\\_23-24.docx](http://www.millsparkbands.com/uploads/2/0/2/9/20298513/mpms_band_handbook_23-24.docx)

### Lessons:

Private lessons, highly recommended for students in band. As a student improves, a greater collection of literature becomes available to them and will enable them to excel, which in turn improves the band. With the aid of private instruction, students also find greater opportunity through experiences like all-county, all-district, and all-state band. Many parents have found that enrolling their child in private lessons pays back when they receive college scholarships. Over half of students who continue band through high school receive some or all payment for college.

This is the list of private teachers in the area, please feel free to email me or see me before or after class for references.

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## [Triangle Philharmonic List of Private Teachers](#)

### [List of Private Teachers](#)

Here's to a great year!

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