



March 15, 2019

Beginning Band Information

Dear Parents,

My name is Erica Gorman and I am the middle school band director. In 6th grade your student has the opportunity to take band. I am sending this letter inviting your family to take advantage of this opportunity to have your child participate. Learning to play an instrument is a skill many adults wish they had or started as a child and wished they had stuck with it. Give your child the gift of music.

During music class starting March 15th through the 21st, I will be teaching students about all the instruments they can play in band next year. On March 25th each 5th grade class will have a chance to try the different instruments and pick their top three choices! Every student gets to participate, even if they are not sure they want to join band. Remember that 6th grade is the only year you can join! Do not miss out on this unique opportunity.

It is easy to sign up for band. Students just need to participate in the instrument testing process on March 25th, and turn in a band permission slip by the March 29th deadline. We will do everything else next year when class starts. Below I have included a list of frequently asked questions.

Thank you,

Erica Gorman
Middle School Band Director
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Frequently Asked Questions

How can I become involved in band?

If your child wishes to be in band, just sign up! Turn in a signed permission slip by the deadline (March 29th). You do not need to do anything over the summer. In the fall there will be a parent night. The tentative date is **August 20, 2019**. You will get all the information you need and a music store will come to our school. This is called the instrument display night. Students can rent their instruments at the instrument display night. Please do not rent an instrument until after we have done the testing and selection process, and have assigned your student an instrument.

What instrument can I play?

We will be starting a certain number of students on the following instruments: flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, French horn, trumpet, trombone, baritone, tuba, and percussion (mallets and snare drum). We take many things into consideration when selecting an instrument for each student. We take into account physical characteristics, students' preferences, and the need for a balanced instrumentation.

When do I find out what I play?

During music class we demonstrated the various instruments. On March 25th we will test each student to see which instrument will be the best match. After all permission slips have been turned in I will assign instruments based on the student's top 3 choices and what we think will be the best fit. Students will find out at the beginning of the year what instruments they are assigned.

What else will be discussed at the instrument display night August 20th?

Students can rent their instruments and purchase their supplies at the instrument display night. Parents will have the opportunity to meet the instructors, see the band facility, and hear how they can support their child during the year. Students will also be assigned a band locker that evening. It is very important that the parent and student attend the meeting.

What is the first day the students will need their instruments?

After the instrument display night in August, the students will be assigned an instrument locker and will be asked to leave their instrument at school that evening. We will begin instruction with the instruments the very next day. Once we teach the students how to properly assemble the instrument, they will be allowed to take them home.

How much will it cost?

Students are required to provide their own instruments, band method books, and needed band supplies. Students may purchase their own instrument, but are encouraged to rent the instruments for at least a year. We strongly recommend that you acquire a quality instrument for your child. ***It is strongly advised to not purchase a colored (blue, green, red ect.) instrument. All though they are fun, these instruments break down easily and are prone to problems.*** In addition, the book and accessories that we will use all year will cost approximately \$40 and will be available at the instrument display night. There are some instruments that we provide like tuba, baritone, and French horn due to the extremely high price of these instruments. The school owns a few instruments other than the ones listed above for those who wish to be in band, but simply cannot afford it. We will check those instruments out to students at display night. If money is an issue, please talk to us so we can make arrangements.

My Mom has Uncle Joe's old clarinet up in the closet. Can I play that?

One of the things that can frustrate any student is trying to play on an instrument that is in poor condition. In many cases, quality used instruments are a good alternative to the prices of new instruments. However, it is extremely important that used instruments go through a thorough cleaning and repair at a music repair store.

Additional Information

If your family already owns a functional instrument or your student was in band in another school district, please email me this information. So that I can assign them the correct instrument. Please email me any financial concerns that you may have. We can work together to find a rental program or a school instrument for your student.

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