

August 23, 2018

Dear fifth grade parents:

I am so excited to announce that beginning band for all interested fifth grade students will “kick off” on Monday, September 24. This is a wonderful opportunity for your child to explore their interest in music as well as enhance cognitive, social, disciplinary, and leadership skills. Please take some time to discuss this possibility with your child.

During the next four weeks, I will be meeting and working with your child to guide them in choosing an instrument that they will find exciting to play and practice. Students may choose to play an instrument from the following list:

Flute

Clarinet

Alto saxophone

Trumpet

Trombone

French horn

Tuba (euphonium)

Percussion (including mallets and snare drum)

Please have your child consider three different instrument options. I will discuss those options with your child when we meet at school to try the instruments. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. **If your child is considering percussion, I strongly recommend that the student has had two years of previous piano experience.**

On Monday, September 24, at 6:30 pm, in the music room, parents and students are encouraged to attend beginning band registration night. This is a chance for me to meet you and talk about the goals and expectations of the band program. Students will also be signing up for their instrument choice. If you need to secure an instrument for your child, Rieman Music will be available that evening as well to discuss their rental plan and repair options of used instruments. **Students will need to purchase a beginning method book and portable music stand for practicing at home.** The books are approximately \$10 and the stands are \$20.

Small group lessons will be offered during the school day for beginning band members starting the week of October 1. Students will meet with me to develop the basic mechanical skills of each instrument and for group rehearsals.

I look forward to meeting with you soon!

Respectfully,

Randy Olson

Band Director

National Honor Society Advisor

Martensdale-St. Mary's School District

Cell phone-641-764-2486 X322

Email randy_olson@mstm.us