



August 2011

Dear Fifth Grade Parent(s):

As a 5th grade student, your child has the opportunity to join band! A child who begins to study music learns discipline, cooperation with others, and a new way to express creativity and emotion. Playing an instrument automatically involves a student in school activities and will identify him with a group of his or her peers. Also, an involvement in music is something your child can actively pursue long after high school.

If you are interested in joining band, please fill out the attached form and bring it to music class **by August 26th** (or ASAP!). I will then assign a time for your child to be tested to determine what instrument would be best for him/her to play. Along with an appointment time, I will also send home more information that should answer most, if not all, of your questions regarding instruments and participating in the band program. Returning the form does not obligate your child to join the program. It just lets me know that you are interested and that I may test your child. **Attached** is some information about instruments we use in the band. We will also be learning about these instruments in music class.

Shivelbine's music store will be here **Thursday, September 15th beginning at 6:00pm**. A schedule for the night will be sent home earlier that week. The store comes to CIS on this night as a courtesy to us and our band families. At this time, you will be able to take care of the "business" of obtaining an instrument for your child. **If you are unable to attend, but are interested in having your child join band**, please contact me (email is best, if possible) and I will be happy to answer any questions you may still have about beginning band.

If you already have an instrument that you wish to have your child use, I still encourage you to attend. I will be distributing important information about band requirements and instrument care. It would also be a good time to have the instrument inspected (just a general inspection). We may be able to determine at that time whether or not any repairs would be necessary.

I want to have all interested students tested prior to this evening, so please get your forms in to me soon! I hope to see you and your child on September 15th!

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YES! My child and I will be at the open house.

No, my child and I cannot attend, but we ARE interested in band.

Parent(s) _____ Child _____

Homeroom _____

Parent Email (if you are interested in receiving information, letters, etc. this way)

_____ Phone: _____

We are interested in the following instrument(s):

1st choice: _____ 2nd choice: _____

We have access to the following instrument and are interested in using it:

YES! My child and I will be at the open house.

No, my child and I cannot attend, but we ARE interested in band.

Parent(s) _____ Child _____

Homeroom _____

Parent Email (if you are interested in receiving information, letters, etc. this way)

_____ Phone: _____

We are interested in the following instrument(s):

1st choice: _____ 2nd choice: _____

We have access to the following instrument and are interested in using it:

Flute



The Flute is a very popular woodwind instrument often chosen by students because it is small. Students should realize small does not mean easy! Since it is a favorite of many students, a parent needs to check with the band director to see if there are already enough flutes. The piccolo, with a higher pitch and a higher demand of performance, is only played by those who are playing the flute at a high level.

Oboe

The oboe is a double reed instrument that is not as well known. It provides a nice tone color for the band and good oboe players are sought after in school, university and professional ensembles. The level of dedication on the part of the student is important to consider, for the oboe requires consistent study.

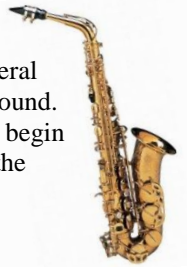


Clarinet

The Clarinet is a reed instrument with a beautiful tone. It is great for beginners and can be a foundation for learning other instruments such as the oboe and bass clarinet. The size of a child's hands is important to consider, for there are many holes to cover.

Saxophone

The Saxophone is a very popular reed instrument because of its use in popular and jazz music. There are several members of the sax family – Alto, Tenor and Baritone – all of which are needed in the band to create a full sound. A beginner usually starts out on the alto sax because of its smaller size, although students may be allowed to begin on tenor – be sure to check with your director. The size of a child's hands is also important to consider for the saxophone, for the keys of the sax are large and heavy.



Trumpet

Trumpets are the most popular brass instruments and are great for beginners. To play a brass instrument it is necessary to be able to identify pitches and have good lip and teeth structure.

Horn

The horn is a very flexible brass instrument. It can be very melodic and beautiful, dramatic, and exciting! The horn may be one of the more difficult brass instruments to play, so it is important that the student is committed to practicing.



Trombone



The Trombone is the only brass instrument with a slide instead of pistons or valves. It is about medium in size and requires a lengthy reach in the arms. It is easy to blow and has a beautiful tone and is much needed in school and professional bands. A strong sense of pitch is essential to the success of playing the trombone.



Baritone/Euphonium & Tuba

The Baritone is medium-sized instrument with valves similar to a trumpet. The Baritone produces a deep, rich sound. Beginners may start on a Baritone and transfer to the Tuba – a very vital instrument in the band – later on. However, a few students are able to actually begin on the tuba, if they are able to physically handle the instrument.

Percussion

Percussion students will be required to play the snare drum and bells. There are many other instruments in the section such as the timpani and xylophone. By also playing the bells, students will gain a foundation of technique and pitch reading that will transfer to the rest of the instruments in the section. Without this foundation, students may never learn how to play these other instruments, greatly limiting opportunities to play with the band. Because of the popularity of drums in professional bands, it is necessary to ask your band director if there is a need for percussionists