

# **Congratulations & Welcome into the Band!!!**

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After having testing your son/daughter on the different instruments, it has been decided that it would be best for him/her to play the above mentioned instrument. **The official sign-up for band is Wednesday, May 30th, 4:00-7:00 p.m.. It will be held in the May Whitney Gym. The sign-up is in open house format, but this year we would like to minimize any lines or waiting. If your child's last name begins with letters A – M plan to attend between 4:00-5:30. If you child's last name begins with letters O - Z then plan to arrive from 5:30-7:00.** One parent needs to attend, but optional for the student. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the instrument selection or the upcoming open house for band, please contact Sophie Creutz at [sophie.creutz@lz95.org](mailto:sophie.creutz@lz95.org).

## **What should we expect at the open house?**

There will be a few stations where you will need to visit. Here you will obtain all of the materials that you will need. You do not need to visit the tables in any specific order (especially if there is a long line), just make sure you stop at each station.

**STATION #1 - Check-in and Meet & Greet:** This is where you check-in. Make sure you sign under the correct school name. This is also the official sign-up sheet and where we get our actual roster. Even if you are not renting from our provider Music & Arts you NEED to sign-in. Please indicate on sign-in if you have your own instrument or renting elsewhere.

This is also where I or Mr. Keilman (other band director) will be located to answer questions or to assist you. There will be some informative pamphlets or handouts on music education and the instrumental program to pick up and possibly sign-up to volunteer as a band parent next year. I have some general information regarding the band program for you to read presently in the letter, but will have a band handbook with more detailed information regarding the program and curriculum for you next fall. We are planning to have a Band Kick-off night the first week of school at the high school. Everyone in band is to attend with a parent. This will be the evening we will have our band meetings discussing the program in its entirety. You will be notified regarding this event before school resumes in the fall. Finally, if you have your own instrument that

needs to be looked over please bring for one of the directors look over just to make sure your child will have a decent working instrument to play on for next year.

### **STATION #2 – Fill out contract on Instrument Rental from *Music and Arts***

Here you will fill out the rental contract. **If you are thinking of renting elsewhere or have your own instrument please see one of the band directors first.** You still may need to purchase accessories (i.e. method book, music stand, etc.) through Music and Arts so you still may need to fill out contract.

### **STATION #3 – Talk with Music and Arts Representative and Finalize Instrument Rental Agreement**

Many of your questions will be answered regarding the contract and rental agreement. This is also where you will make payment for the instrument and accessories.

#### **When will we get the instruments, music, and accessories?**

Students will not be receiving instruments and other accessories until school resumes in the fall. We will meet students the first 2 weeks without instruments in their scheduled groups. These schedules will be given to their 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher the first week of school. Students are to have their own band binder, dividers, and a pencil for their first week of band class. You will be given further information at the band meeting night as to when your child will receive the instrument.

### **General Band Information**

Students in band have weekly classes once a week for 30 minutes. This is considered a “pull-out” program where students leave their regular classroom and be responsible for what they missed during this time. Student’s classes will rotate weekly as to not miss the same subject per week. Schedules will be given at the beginning of the year.

Students need a band book (Tradition of Excellence), 3 ring binder (for band only), dividers, PENCIL (kept in binder), instrument w/ accessories, and music stand/carrying case.

After a month into the school year (October), the entire band will meet for weekly rehearsals. We meet every Tuesday morning at 7:00 a.m. at Spencer Loomis. Students will need to be dropped off to rehearsal. Seth Paine students will take a bus back to school around 8:15.

In the fall students will need to purchase a band shirt and also have proper attire for concerts: black pants, dark shoes, and dark socks (nylon stockings for girls ok).

There are 2 main concerts during the year held at Middle School South. The first is a Demonstration Concert in December and the second a Spring Concert in May. We also plan a band festival next year with all the bands at the high school in April.

Students are to practice in order to progress on their instrument and stay with the curriculum. Students are expected to practice 20-25 minutes a day 5-6 days a week.

There will be a specific schedule given and more detailed information provided for you in the band handbook, which you will receive along with the commitment contract at the

band parent meeting the first week of school.

**I need to point out that if you are to rent elsewhere or have your own instrument that you do NOT start your child on lessons or on the instrument this summer. It is vital for beginning band students to start at the same time and get the proper fundamentals acquired in order to succeed in the program.**

We are going to have a great year in 5<sup>th</sup> grade band. I'm looking forward to seeing you at Sign-up Night and looking forward to a productive and enjoyable year in band. May this hope to be the first of many years in the band program for your child. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Sophie Creutz  
Band Director  
Sophie.Creutz@lz95.org