

August 10, 2017

Dear 5th grade parents,

Below you will find information regarding getting an instrument for 5th grade and our beginning band camp.

Marshall Music and West Michigan Band and Orchestra Instruments are both reliable stores in Grand Rapids. Any of the instrument brands these stores sell will work as instruments for your child. Used instruments often work just as well as newer instruments. They just are not quite as shiny. Both stores at the meeting sell used instrument that would work for your child. You may need to visit their stores to see what is available for used instruments.

If you already have an instrument in the family that you would like to use, please bring it to the meeting, or schedule a time for me to check the instrument. Old instruments that have been in the family can work very well, but often need some repair work to function properly.

If you are considering purchasing an instrument through Craig's List, Amazon, or another internet source, please forward to me the brand and model of instrument you are considering. Instruments bought online sometimes work, but I've seen a few well-meaning parents unknowingly waste money on an instrument that only works for a few weeks, and then is not repairable. I'm happy to help you avoid these pitfalls. Please contact me with the details for any instrument you are considering purchasing online.

### **Beginning Band Camp**

We will be having a beginning band camp starting on Tuesday August 15 through Thursday, August 17 in the Thaddeus Center. This building is located right behind the main middle school building.

You child will only need to be there for the 45 minute period listed below. If possible, please get your child's instrument for them to use at beginning band camp. If you are not able to get an instrument before then, they can still come and learn how to put the instrument together, how to hold it, and how to start making the correct sounds. Please come to the days you can, even if your child has gotten help from an older sibling or a family friend.

August 15-17 (Tuesday - Thursday)

- Flute: 9:00-9:45
- Clarinet: 9:45-10:30
- Trumpet: 10:30-11:15
- Trombone: 11:15-12:00
- Percussion: 12:00-12:45

Please come to as many of these beginning band camp dates as your schedule allows, even it is not the full three days. If your family schedule prevents you from coming to all of these

beginning band camp dates, your child will catch up quickly once school starts.  
The first day for students to have their instruments during the school year will be the first day of school: Monday, August 28.

If you have any questions about getting an instrument, or if an instrument you have will work, I'm always happy to talk about beginning band. This is an exciting time for the students and for me. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance.

God bless,

Mr. Matt Palmieri  
Band Instructor  
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Our Community Partner of the Week is:  
DeVries Jewelers



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