

GEORGETOWNE 5TH GRADE BEGINNING BAND

To: Potential Beginning Band Students & Parents:

Fifth grade is the year where students have the opportunity to receive instruction on band instruments. Small group lessons and, when allowed, group band, are offered on flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba, and percussion (snare drum & bells).

A quality instrument is essential for a successful band experience! If you already have a used instrument, please ask Mrs. Woods or Mr. Woods to look it over to make sure the instrument is in good playing condition. If you plan to rent or buy a new instrument, make sure it is a quality instrument from a reputable music store. If you have any questions about which store to contact, please ask. Also, be cautious about instruments sold on Ebay, Facebook Marketplace, etc. Many of the “Ebay” “Amazon” instruments are cheaply priced, but extremely poor quality. Please remember an instrument of poor quality will be more difficult for your child to learn to play and may likely result in substantial repair bills in the future. If you find a used instrument on Ebay or Facebook Marketplace, please share the advertisement with Mrs. Woods or Mr. Woods before purchasing. We have seen a large number of quality used instruments advertised, especially on Marketplace, and we want to make sure you purchase the best possible instrument for your son/daughter.

During the past few music classes, the 5th grade classes have had the opportunity to learn about and hear the different band instruments. When making an instrument recommendation to your child, we try to consider the following: facial structure, physical size, musical aptitude, coordination, academic achievement, student’s personal preference, and a balanced instrumentation.

Kidder Music [Peoria—(309) 692-4040] is our preferred music store for new and used instrument rentals. They have a monthly instrumental rent-to-own program, which also can include a maintenance agreement that many families find very convenient.

******The band demo will be on Thursday, September 5th from 3:00-5:30 in the GMS Music Room.** Blake Markum, from Kidder Music, will be present with instruments to rent or buy and will explain the payment options. Students will be given the opportunity to try playing each instrument during music class on Friday, September 1st.

******Lessons will begin Monday, September 16th.** All lessons will be 7:30-8:00 a.m. once per week. A weekly schedule will be communicated via Class Dojo as well as with students during music class. By this time, students should have acquired the required material (instrument, reeds--oboe/clarinet/saxophone, *Essential Elements for Band (Book 1)*, cleaning kit, music stand (optional, but highly recommended for ease of home practice).

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at GMS. 309-382-3456

We are looking forward to a wonderful beginning band this year!!!

Mrs. Woods

hwoods@dist102.org
5th Grade Band Director
ext. 207

Mr. Woods

bwoods@dist102.org
6th-8th Band Director
ext. 206