

Brooklyn Middle School

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June 10, 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians:

There will be an informational meeting/sign-up for 4th grade students interested in becoming involved in the Brooklyn Middle School instrumental music program on Friday, June 11 at 10 a.m. in the Middle School auditorium. The purpose of this meeting is to identify students interested in joining the band program, to outline the band program, and to help students choose an instrument. No prior experience playing an instrument is needed. In the past, this meeting has been held in the Fall, but due to scheduling changes at the Middle School, the 5th grade band program will begin as soon as school starts. Students who indicate that they are interested will be scheduled for band classes. If students do not decide to participate in the band program until the Fall, they will still be able to join. Likewise, students who sign up for band now, will be able to change their schedules if they choose not to participate in band at a later date.

In most cases, students will need to provide an instrument in order to participate in the band program. All students joining band will need to purchase a instrumental music book. If you rent an instrument, a book will be provided as part of the rental. If you already own or have access to an instrument you will need to purchase Essential Elements 2000 Level 1, published by Hal Leonard. The books retail for \$7.95. You can order them through the school or obtain them somewhere else (jwpepper.com or halleonard.com for example) . The school does own a limited number of instruments for student use please contact me if you are interested in borrowing one of the school-owned instruments.

I strongly recommend that parents/students rent, rather than purchase an instrument to begin with, if they do not already own or have access to an instrument. All rental fees paid will be put towards the purchase of an instrument if a student continues to use that instrument. If you choose to purchase, rather than rent an instrument, please contact me ahead of time so that I can help you evaluate the instrument you are considering. There are many quality used instruments that can be purchased at a reasonable price, but there also many