

# Brooklyn Middle School

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May 9, 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians:

There will be an informational meeting/sign-up for parents of 4th grade students interested in joining the BMS Band Program next year. The meeting will be held June 8 at 7 p.m. in the Middle School auditorium. The purpose of this meeting is to outline the band program, to provide detailed information on obtaining an instrument and a lesson book, as well as to help students choose an instrument. No prior experience playing an instrument is needed.

Since band classes will start the 1st day of school, it would be beneficial if 5th who will be in the band program graders have instruments by the second week of school. 5th Grade students can still join the band program if they do not have instruments right away, however, it is best to have an instrument as close to the start of school as possible.

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](http://jwpepper.com) or [halleonard.com](http://halleonard.com) for example) .The school does own a limited number of instruments for student use - I will explain this in detail at the meeting. A representative from Don Fitch Music Music will be present at the meeting to answer questions on renting and/or purchasing an instrument. 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.

Instruments offered in 5th grade band are: clarinet; flute; trumpet; alto saxophone; trombone; french horn; oboe; baritone horn; and percussion. 4th graders will be coming to the Middle School during the school day on May 26 to