

MANISTEE BANDS

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Dear Parents/Guardians and 5th Grade students,

As a 5th Grade student, your child finally has the opportunity to do what so many successful students have done before them, be a part of the Manistee Band program! The Manistee Band program has been in existence for over 90 years and successfully performs in many concerts, festivals, athletic events, and parades.

We know that for many of you, this will be your first exposure to playing an instrument in a band. The biggest questions to answer are what instrument should my student play and how can we get an instrument for each student to play.

On Thursday, September 13, representatives from the Meyer Music and I will meet with each student and give them the opportunity to try out four different instruments, the flute, clarinet, trumpet, and trombone. I have found that students normally are more successful when starting on one of these instruments. Many factors go into determining what instrument is the best choice for your student but the most important is what they are most interested in and what they are able to play easily from the beginning. Everyone has different abilities based on their individual physical characteristics that play a part in how successful they can be. If you want to play the saxophone, I recommend that you start on clarinet; French horn start on trumpet, and Baritone or Tuba start on trombone, etc. If you would like to start on another instrument please contact me and we will discuss.

On Tuesday, September 18, from 6:30 – 7:30 pm at the Kennedy Elementary Cafeteria, representatives from Meyer Music will bring instruments here for you to rent to own for your student. Please bring a check or credit card info and your driver's license.

It usually costs around \$25-30 per month to rent. The great thing about renting is that if your student decides to try a different instrument all money that you have paid in goes towards the new instrument. All repair costs are also covered. Students will also receive the first band book and a folding music stand to use at home. If you have any questions about renting an instrument please call **Meyer Music** at **231-865-7000** or go to their website at **meyer-music.com**. If you would rather purchase an instrument several people have contacted me about selling previously used instruments. Please contact me if you are interested or have any other questions.

I know many students want to play the percussion instruments, I like to have students start on one of the four wind instruments listed above and then anyone who wants to try percussion will be given multiple opportunities during the school year to try playing the school owned percussion instruments. If we both decide that percussion is the right instrument choice for your student, I'll let them play percussion full time.

Music education is more than just playing an instrument. It is immersing your child in a culture of successful students and teachers who care about education. It challenges each child to use the creative side of their brain while, at the same time, and have an enjoyable artistic experience. All of the current data clearly states that students involved in music education academically outperform their non-musical counterparts. But, more importantly, studies are showing that music students are less likely to engage in risky behaviors such as drugs and alcohol.

Every destination starts with a decision to embark on a journey. Now is the time to start your child in music and Kennedy Elementary is the place to do it. We can't promise that every child will be a musical prodigy, but we can promise they will learn, laugh, and grow along the way. We will have several concerts throughout the school year.

Should you have any questions about band or your child's participation, please feel free to contact me using the information listed below.

Sincerely,

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