

Attention All 4th Grade Students and Parents:



BAND AND ORCHESTRA!



In 5th grade, all students have the opportunity to participate in orchestra and/or band! This packet contains information about these opportunities.

TOP 10 REASONS TO JOIN BAND OR ORCHESTRA IN FORT ATKINSON:

1. It's FUN!
2. You get to be a musician!
3. You will make new friends.
4. You have the opportunity to perform concerts for friends and families.
5. You learn how to play an instrument!
6. In 2006, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 the **Fort Atkinson School District** was named by the NAMM Foundation as one of the "**Best Communities for Music Education**" in the entire nation!
7. Music Helps Calm the Mind and Relieves Stress in your life!
8. Famous People played instruments too!
Actress Julia Roberts: Clarinet and Oboe
Aerosmith's lead musician Steven Tyler: Trumpet
Actor Samuel L. Jackson: French Horn
9. "A ten year study indicates that students who study music achieve higher test scores, regardless of socioeconomic background."
– Dr. James Catterall, UCLA
10. "Students in schools with arts-focused curriculums reported significantly more positive perceptions about their academic abilities than students in a comparison group."
– Pamela Aschbacher and Joan Herman, *The Humanities Program Evaluation*

For more information, please visit the
5th Grade Band and Orchestra Webpage:

<http://www.fortschools.org/webpages/JGary/>



Questions? Please contact:

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THE ORCHESTRA OPPORTUNITY:



What instruments are we talking about? Violin, Viola and Cello

(Students have the opportunity to try the Bass in middle school if they want to switch to a new instrument. We do not start Bass in 5th grade simply because students are not tall enough!)

When will the students learn about the orchestra opportunity?

On May 31, 2016, a group of experienced orchestra students will be traveling to each elementary school to do an orchestra demonstration for current 4th grade students. After the demonstration, each fourth grader will have the opportunity to try playing the instruments.

When do we sign up?

On **Wednesday, June 1**, 2016, there will be an **Orchestra Sign-up Night** for all interested students at Luther Elementary from 3:30-6:30 pm (open house).



How much does it cost?

You will need to rent an instrument if you do not currently have one. At the Sign-Up Night, representatives from Breber Music Company will be present. You can get all rental information at that time. If you choose to rent from a different company or choose to buy a used instrument, I can give you more information about all rental/purchasing opportunities at the Sign Up. If you know your child is interested, but do not know if you can financially afford to rent an instrument, please see me at the Sign Up or contact me via phone or email beforehand (contact information is listed on cover page). **We do not want financial concerns to be a reason a student is unable to participate. We will work with you to make this possible!**

When does orchestra start?

Lessons for interested students begin in September as soon as the students' 5th grade year begins. We have the sign-up night in May so all paperwork is squared away and students can begin orchestra immediately when the school year starts.

How does the orchestra program in 5th grade work?

Orchestra takes place during the school day in 5th grade. Students are pulled from their regular classes once a week for a 30 minute small-group lesson. All orchestra students will also meet once a week with other orchestra students during lunch recess for an all-school orchestra rehearsal. Before concerts, we have all-school rehearsals where all students from each elementary school come together to rehearse in order to perform together.

Want More Information?

Please check out the 5th grade Band and Orchestra Website for additional information at:
<http://www.fortschools.org/webpages/JGary/>





THE BAND OPPORTUNITY:

What instruments are we talking about? **Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, French horn, Trombone, Baritone and Percussion***

*(*Percussion instruments include: snare drum, bass drum, bells, and more. In 5th grade, percussion students focus primarily on the snare drum and bells, but will learn a multitude of other instruments before the year is over. It is important for students to realize percussion is NOT simply "drums." If students are serious about becoming a percussionist, prior piano experience is preferred, but not required). There will be a limited number of percussion slots available. All interested students will audition with Mrs. Gary.*



When will the students learn about the band opportunity?

In mid-October of the 2016-17 school year, all 5th grade students travel to the high school to hear about the band opportunity. The high school band students perform for the students, and each instrument is featured. In the week following the demonstration, interested students will meet with Mrs. Gary one-on-one and have the opportunity to try playing each of the band instruments.

When do we sign up?

Following the high school band presentation in late October, there will be a **Band Sign-Up Night in early November, 2016**. You will receive more detailed information in October next year. Band lessons begin about a week after the sign-up night.

How much does it cost?

You will have to rent an instrument if you do not currently have one. At the sign-up night, there will be representatives available from Breber Music Company. You can get all rental information at that time. If you choose to rent from a different company or choose to buy a used instrument right away, I can give you more information about other rental opportunities at the sign-up night. If you know your child is interested, but do not know if you can financially afford to rent an instrument, please see me at the Sign Up or contact me via phone or email beforehand (contact information is listed on cover page). **We do not want financial concerns to be a reason a student is unable to participate. We will work with you to make this possible!**

How does the band program in 5th grade work?

Band takes place during the school day. Students are pulled from their regular classes one time per week for a 30 minute small-group lesson. All band students will also meet once per week with other band students during lunch recess for an all-school band rehearsal. Before concerts, we have all-school rehearsals where all students from each elementary school come together to rehearse in order to perform together.



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