

Dear Families of Fourth Grade Band Students,

I am excited that many of the fourth grade students have joined band this year. Students will have instrumental group lessons on Monday through Thursday and full band rehearsals on Fridays. Please pencil in the days on your calendar as to when your child will need to bring his/her instrument to school. If students already have an instrument, they may bring it in for their first lesson and full band rehearsal. The following are the exact days on which each instrumental group will need to bring their instruments to school:

Monday-Trumpet

Tuesday- Clarinet and Saxophone

Wednesday-Percussion

Thursday-Flute

Friday-Full Band

Additionally, please support your child in practicing 20 minutes per day with the exception of one day off, of their choice, per week. This will help facilitate full participation and improvement in the instrumental program.

In preparation for this instrumental experience, you will need to make arrangements to either rent, borrow or purchase an instrument by the beginning of the school year. Beller's Music in Manchester provides instrumental services to our school. If you would like to use their services, the following is their address and phone number:

Beller's Music

881 Main St.

Manchester, Ct. 06040.

Their phone number is 860-649-2036.

If students play the clarinet or saxophone, I would suggest that you purchase a box of reeds from either the music store or online. One reed is not enough. Please note that the lower number strength reed, for example 1.5, is most appropriate

for a beginner student. Other instruments will have enough supplies, such as valve oil, in their instrument cases. If they run out of instrumental supplies, they may also be purchased at the music store or online. If need be, I will also have a few emergency instrumental supplies available as a backup plan so that your child can still participate in lessons or full band.

The first instrumental lessons will mostly be about caring for their instrument, putting it together and making a sound on the mouth piece. Please be patient and encouraging with your child as they get through the beginning stages of learning to play their instrument. I always tell my students to be patient and take small breaks when learning to play a new instrument. The most important thing is to have fun at each stage of learning to play the instrument.

I will announce a concert date as spring gets closer.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any other questions.

Sincerely

Kathy Francis

Music Educator