

August 23, 2016

Dear 5th Grade Students and Parents:

On Friday, August 26th the High School Marching Band will perform for all 5th graders. This is an opportunity for students to experience first-hand the energy that comes from being a band member. This assembly will aid your child in selecting the instrument that will best suit him/her. During the assembly we will play each instrument individually in order to aid in their selection process.

The week of August 29th we will be testing students to see if they are suited for the instrument of their choice. Most students are assigned to their first choice but at times this is not possible. If problems arise we steer students to their 2nd choice. Please fill out the attached form and send it to school with your child by Wednesday, August 31st. This form helps the directors with the testing process and informs us that you are aware of your student's decision to join band.

On Tuesday, September 6th from 6:00-7:30PM in the Middle School band room, a representative from Rettig Music will be available for you to acquire the instruments and supplies needed to begin band. This isn't a sit down meeting. You may come in at any time during this time and take care of business and then move on with your evening. This is a service providing you with a quick and easy way to purchase everything required for the first class. If you cannot make it to the meeting, you may call Rettig Music at 1-800-52-MUSIC and by phone using your credit card. You may also order online at www.rettigmusic.com.

If you are buying a used instrument or own instruments you wish to use, be sure to bring it to school so the directors can determine its playability. If there are problems we believe need to be inspected by a repairman we will ask that you take the instrument to a reputable music dealer for inspection. This process needs to be taken care of well in advance of the first day we play the instruments in class (Sept. 12th) so your son/daughter doesn't get a late start. If all these details are not taken care of in a timely manner your child will not be prepared on the first day of band and will be behind the rest of his/her classmates. Please be diligent and stay on top of this matter. *Also, **do not purchase instruments from stores like Wal-Mart, Sam's Club, JC Penny's, or certain internet sites. The instruments at these stores are made with cheap materials and will cost you more money in repairs in the long run (if it is repairable at all).** Do not purchase an instrument on E-bay or any other websites until you have spoken with the directors first. This is designed to protect the quality of our band program and the security of your financial investment.*

On the first day of class every student should have an instrument in GOOD playing condition, Tradition of Excellence, Book 1 (for his/her instrument), a cleaning kit and a music stand for at-home practice (don't bring the music stand to class). Once a student is enrolled in the 5th grade band, he/she will be committed to the class for the rest of the school year.

Please sit down with your son/daughter and decide on a 1st and 2nd instrument choice. Students may select from the following band instruments: flute, clarinet, alto saxophone (limited numbers), trumpet, trombone and baritone. Students who are interested in playing percussion in 5th grade will be required to have a minimum of 2 years piano experience and must demonstrate their ability to the directors. As we move through the middle school years we will allow other students who wish to play percussion to play on a song or two during concerts to get a feel for percussion while at the same time continuing to develop on their wind instrument. Students who prove their ability, maturity and commitment while in this setting will be strongly considered for permanent placement in the percussion section.

ATTACHED YOU WILL FIND A PERMISSION SLIP. ALL PERMISSION SLIPS MUST BE TURNED INTO YOUR HOMEROOM TEACHER BEFORE **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31ST, 2016**. WE CAN NOT ALLOW STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN BAND IF THE PERMISSION SLIP IS NOT TURNED IN. If your son or daughter already has band on his/her schedule you do not need to turn in a form. If there are questions we may be reached by phone at 419-739-5111 (or 5132) or email at hillkl@wapak.org (Hilleary) or wimmst@wapak.org (Wimmers)

Musically,

Mr. Klayton Hilleary

Mr. Steven Wimmers

EXPLORATORY REGISTRATION FORM
PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO YOUR HOMEROOM TEACHER

STUDENT NAME _____

HOMEROOM TEACHER _____

1ST CHOICE _____

2ND CHOICE _____

PARENT'S SIGNATURE _____

PARENT'S PHONE NUMBER _____

.....
Please do not write below this line

EXPLORATORY EVALUATION _____

INSTRUMENT ASSIGNMENT _____

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31ST, 2016