

Dear 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents,

Welcome back to school! We hope that your summers were restful. We wanted to take this opportunity to remind you of the opportunities available to your student here at West Elementary. As you know, last spring your student was tested and received information about participating in Band. Over forty fifth grade students participated in our summer program in June! Here's some more information about the upcoming weeks. **Those who were not able to participate the summer band program and are still interested in playing an instrument, can still join!**

1. Band class will start on Wednesday August 16. **To allow time for parents to acquire an instrument for their child, students do not need to bring their instruments or books to class until the following Wednesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Students may bring their instruments before the 23<sup>rd</sup> and store them in their band locker if they would like)
2. **Important:** Students should still attend band class even if they don't have an instrument yet. We will work with you and your student to get them caught up once they have their instrument.
3. We recommend bringing a standard combination lock to secure your student's instrument in the storage lockers. We have a limited number of lockers so some students will be able to share a locker with a friend. (Please no key locks)
4. We will send out more detailed information about band books next week.

#### **HOW TO GET AN INSTRUMENT:**

If you have not purchased or rented an instrument you can do that through Glenn's Music in Manhattan ([785\) 539-1926](tel:7855391926), Manning Music in Topeka (785) 272-1740, or Senseney Music in Wichita at [800-362-1060](tel:8003621060).

**We have currently reached our limit on Saxophone and Percussion please do not purchase or rent these instruments unless it was recommended for your student last spring.**

Here are some other things to think about:

1. Which instrument is your student interested in playing and was it recommended for them?
2. Do you currently own or rent that instrument?

If you already own an instrument, it is very important that it is in good working order. If it has not been checked out, we ask you to send that instrument in next week with your son/daughter for us to evaluate.

Mr. Richmond and I are looking forward to a great musical beginning with your son or daughter. They will become a vital part of the band program here at West Elementary. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact either one of us via email or telephone. We will be glad to help!

West Elementary Band Directors

Mrs. Gartner & Mr. Richmond

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