

A Letter Introducing The Band Program

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Greetings from the instrumental music department. I am writing to you to let you know about a great opportunity for your student. The Howard County Public School System offers instrumental music programs beginning in elementary school. Brass, woodwind and percussion instruments are offered for the first time in the fourth grade. If your student is not already playing, now is the very best time to learn to play an instrument!

The benefits of instrumental music are many. Playing an instrument helps to develop self-discipline, fine-motor coordination, problem-solving abilities, and teamwork skills. It provides an opportunity for creativity and self-expression. These are valuable skills that we use throughout life. To enjoy these benefits, however, one must make a commitment. Students will need to maintain instruments, practice at home, and make-up any work missed in other classes. Parents will need to help by getting an instrument, books, and supplies, and by facilitating practice at home.

Your student has seen a demonstration of the band instruments offered at school, and has been asked to think of several that are of interest. Although most people can play any of these instruments, there may be physical characteristics that make playing one particular instrument impossible. Also, each person will find some instruments more comfortable and natural than others. I will meet with the students individually to assess their relative strengths and weaknesses. Together we will make a decision about which instrument the student will play.

I look forward to working with you and your students this year.

Sincerely,

Mr. Lea
Band Director