

Dear Parents,

Last week we had a very successful band instrument “petting zoo.” The students were very excited and interested in trying out the different instruments! I am having such a wonderful year working with the current band, that I can't wait to start next year with more kids!!

We had a flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, snare drum, and bells (glockenspiel) available to try out. These are the main instruments from which students may begin. I am very willing start someone on French horn, but only with at least 2 years of piano background. Many schools require piano for drums and percussion. I encourage this, but do not require it.

I strongly suggest that you speak with your child about the commitment needed to play an instrument. It is great fun, but besides the lessons and rehearsals, one also needs to spend a few days each week practicing at home.

Spring Concert: Please put **Friday, June 6, 6:30pm** on your calendars! The Concert Band is performing in the Aula.

Interest: please let me know if you are interested in participating via email, monk2miles@comcast.net. However, I need to know who is playing what well in advance of next fall for planning purposes! Please let me know if your child is going to participate.

Registration: Official registration is through the afterschool program.

Financing an instrument: Schmitt Music, along with other music stores, offers a great way to finance a new or used instrument- it is interest free! And you can trade in if your child changes his/her mind or wants to upgrade down the line. I also recommend Music Go Round and craigslist. If you have questions about a used instrument from craigslist, forward me the link at monk2miles@comcast.net.

Most music stores offer a 3 month trial rental. YOUR TRIAL PERIOD BEGINS WHEN YOU RECEIVE THE INSTRUMENT. I can arrange for Schmitt music to deliver the instruments to TCGIS the week before band starts in the fall. You won't be paying for time that you don't have the instrument. If you are planning on private lessons outside of school, arrangements can be made to pick up the instrument. I don't want anyone learning anything wrong, so I recommend that kids don't have horns in hand until we begin! Monthly rates usually run \$35-60, depending on the instrument.

Fees: Students will pay \$8 per week, payable to TCGIS through the after school program. This will include a weekly group lesson (20-30 minutes, depending on the number of kids in the group) and full band rehearsal **Wednesdays** after school. Please note that the 5th graders won't be involved with the after school full band until spring, as the students need to be at a certain proficiency before joining that group.

Students taking private lessons elsewhere can participate in just the full band **Wednesdays** after school for a reduced rate of \$5 per week.

Other materials: Students will need to purchase books- usually around \$7 or \$8. Clarinets, saxophones, and oboes need to purchase reeds. Trumpets and trombones need oil for valves and slides. Woodwinds will need swabs to clean the insides of their horns. Most of these costs are minimal.

Summer lessons: I would love to start interested students before school starts! With construction this may be tricky this year. I do teach lessons at my home in South Minneapolis on Mondays and Wednesdays, and at a studio in Roseville on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The cost for a 30 minute lesson is \$22 at my house and \$28 at the studio.

Please let me know if you have any questions!

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