

Brooklyn Middle School
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April 12, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians:

There will be an informational meeting/sign-up for parents/guardians of 4th grade students interested in joining the BMS Band Program next year. The meeting will be held May 24, at 7 p.m., in the Middle School auditorium. The purpose of this meeting is to outline the band program, to provide detailed information on obtaining an instrument and a lesson book, as well as to help students choose an instrument. No prior experience playing an instrument is needed.

Since band classes will start the 1st day of school, 5th grade students who will be in the band program should have instruments as soon as possible when the new school year begins. 5th grade students can still join the band program if they do not have instruments right away, but students may fall behind rather quickly if they do not have an instrument when the school year starts.

The 4th grade will attend an assembly on April 12 in the Middle School. At this assembly, students will hear performances by the BMS bands, and they will also have an opportunity to ask questions about the music program.

In most cases, students will need to provide an instrument in order to participate in the band program. All students joining band will need to purchase an instrumental music book, Essential Elements for Band (formerly Essential Elements 2000) Level 1, published by Hal Leonard. The books retail for about \$10.00 (percussion is \$20.00). You can order them when you place a rental order or from many web sites (gerrysmusicshop.com, jwpepper.com, musicarts.com). The school does own a limited number of instruments for student use - I will explain this in detail at the meeting. A representative from Gerry's Music will be present at the meeting to answer questions on renting and/or purchasing an instrument. I strongly recommend that parents/students rent, rather than purchase an instrument to begin with, if they do not already own or have access to an instrument. All rental fees paid will be put towards the purchase of an instrument if a student continues to use that instrument. You can rent an instrument by filling out a rental form at the meeting, or online at gerrysmusicshop.com. Instruments will be delivered to Brooklyn MS in the Fall when school starts.

Instruments offered in 5th grade band are: clarinet; flute; trumpet; alto saxophone; trombone; baritone horn; and percussion. The oboe and French Horn are also options, but there can be a much steeper learning curve with oboe and French Horn, so please be sure to

talk to Mr. Kelleher if considering those. 4th graders will be coming to the Middle School during the school day on April 12 to learn about the various instruments used in the band program. All students should have a second choice for an instrument in mind, as there are a limited number of openings for some instruments. Percussion will be limited to 5 students, and alto sax will be limited to 8 students. Students who already own an instrument will be given their first choice for an instrument. Please note that if you already own an instrument it will most likely need some repair before it is used in band lessons. Please have your child bring it to me, Mr. Kelleher, as soon as possible. You can also bring any instruments to this meeting if you'd like to have them checked over or sent out for a repair estimate.

Band classes meet every other day as part of students' schedules. The schedule for next year will be put together in the near future. In order to make this possible, please fill out the bottom of this form and return it to your child's 4th grade teacher. Students should understand that by signing up for band, it is expected that they be in band for the entire school year.

While this is not a mandatory meeting, parents/guardians who are unable to attend this meeting should email Mr. Kelleher in order to discuss instrument selection as well as how to find a suitable instrument. Also, feel free to contact me with any other questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Kelleher
kelleher@brooklynschools.org

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If you would like your child to participate in the BMS Band program, please fill this out and return it to your child's 4th grade teacher. By filling this form out, band will be a part of your child's middle school schedule next year.

_____ is planning to join the BMS Band

(student's name)
program next year.

(parent/guardian signature)

