



District 92 Bands

<http://band.d92.org>

May 8, 2009

Dear 4th Grade Parents,

During the month of May, your son or daughter has had the opportunity to learn about the exciting opportunity for them in the District 92 Band program. Your child has shown an interest in joining the band program and we'd like to welcome you to our music family. We would like to invite you to our beginning band parents meeting on Monday, June 1st at 7:00 p.m. in the Ludwig Little Gym. This will be a great opportunity to answer questions, register for band and get information on renting instruments.

Your son or daughter should have brought home an instrumental recommendation form. All the instruments in the band are vital to a great band and each instrument will provide unique opportunities, especially the "color" instruments such as oboe, clarinet, french horn, trombone, and tuba. *We are requiring all students who are interested in playing saxophone to begin on clarinet.* Please understand that our **professional recommendations** are based on years of experience working with students. Physical differences in facial make-up and coordination may make one instrument a better choice than another. We will always try to match students up with instruments that are best suited for them. *Please complete the **band registration form** on the band website above **OR** complete a paper registration form and return it to Mrs. Danley at Ludwig School.*

Band at Ludwig is an extra-curricular activity that rehearses either before or after school on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays for beginners depending on parent feedback at the June 1st meeting. In addition to the two extra-curricular rehearsals each week, students will have a "technique class" during the school day once a week on a rotating schedule. Students will not miss the same class more than once every 5 weeks. Beginning Band students participate in two public performances throughout the school year. Concerts will be scheduled in December and April. This will be further explained in the District 92 Band Handbook that students will receive at the beginning of the year.

A word of caution for parents and students in regards to selecting a music vendor. Treble Clef, Inc. is the preferred vendor for District 92. This is based on their outstanding service to our students and schools over the past 18 years. They provide quality instruments and repairs at a very competitive cost. Although there are lower cost ways of purchasing instruments (ebay or chain stores), the quality of these instruments is truly inferior to the instruments that are provide through a music store that specializes in selling and maintaining musical instruments. Please be VERY cautious of instruments made in China or India as these instruments are generally of very low quality, will not be repaired by any local music store, and in most cases hinder musical development for children. *If it seems too good to be true, it probably is!*

Musically yours,

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