**TO:** Incoming 5th Grade Band Students and Parents

**FROM:** Miss Jablonski

**RE:** Start-Up week and Rental Night/Lesson Sign-Up Loose Ends

May 28th, 2015

Greetings from the band room! Rental night was a success—a great turnout. If you missed it, no worries! A reminder to all: check the band website (<http://chatfieldbands.weebly.com> )to view the beginning band handbook. It goes over a brief overview of my curriculum, what opportunities band students have as they progress through the program, and gives helpful hints on everything from practicing to how to best support your child’s efforts at home.

For those still in need of an instrument, simply go up to either **Schmitt Music** (off of HWY 52—take the 19th street exit and turn left twice) or **Welhaven Music** (park in the Center Street Ramp downtown---right next door) say that you’re from Chatfield and they’ll get you all set up with the instrument, book (A+ Method by Ryan Anderson), and supplies that you need. Remember, French horns, euphoniums, and tubas all receive instruments from the school and pay a minimal yearly usage fee to cover cleaning costs.

For those who already have an instrument (purchased used, through a friend, or had laying around the house), please make sure that it is good working condition (both stores have repair people on staff that will check for you if you’re unsure), and that you have necessary supplies as listed on the original band letter that went home. Also, you’ll need the A+ Method for Band by Ryan Anderson for your specific instrument. **PLEASE PURCHASE THIS BOOK THROUGH WELHAVEN MUSIC IF YOU DIDN’T PRE-ORDER ALREADY FROM SCHMITT MUSIC.**

**SUMMER LESSONS**---though quickly running out, there are still slots available for summer study. Most 5th grade families take advantage of this to not only give the student a chance to receive that all-important one-on-one attention, but to also be able to make sure that this instrument is indeed a great fit for the child before the school year starts. Contact me via e-mail (best- so we have a written record) [kjablonski@chatfield.k12.mn.us](mailto:kjablonski@chatfield.k12.mn.us) or phone 507-951-1809 to register for summer lessons. Price again is $8.50 per 15-minute lesson. $50 if attending all six weeks. Subtract as necessary for weeks absent due to camps/trips, etc. These lessons start the week after start-up—three in June, and three in July (skipping the 4th of the July week). No elementary band activities are held in August due to HS marching band camp and my weeks of true vacation. Open spots with me are Friday mornings only. If that doesn’t work with your current schedule, still contact me and I’ll pass along your information to Mrs. Narveson who said she would happily take my overflow!

**START-UP WEEK**

I’ve done my best to work around all known softball/baseball practices as well as the boys basketball camp being held the same week as our start-up. Tuesday, the first day, is used mainly for instrument maintenance and assembly, so I work with larger groups as much of the information is the same. Starting on Wednesday (for the remainder of the week), we break off into instrument-specific groups and most have shorter timeframes. Length of lesson is dependent on difficulty of instrument for certain skills. (Flutes need more time initially, while clarinets will need more attention half-way through the first year, etc.)

Items to bring on day one:

1. **Instrument and book**, if not rented or purchased from the school or a music store.Music store items will be waiting in the HS band room for you!
2. **Cleaning supplies**. Instruments that come from Schmitt or Welhaven will have valve oil, cork grease, necessary swabs, etc. If you got your instrument from somewhere else, make sure that you have the following with you:

**Flutes**-all of you need to bring a cleaning cloth. Bandanas work perfectly! ($1 at Hobby Lobby, Michaels, Target, WalMart, etc.) Old T-shirts can be used as well.

**Clarinets/Saxophones**—you’ll need cork grease and a swab. Schmitt and Welhaven have these in stock.

**Trumpet, Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, and Tuba**-You’ll need valve oil (Schmitt and Welhaven have these in stock) and slide cream. Instead of purchasing expensive instrument-specific cream, the best thing to get is the smallest (travel size works great—get at Target!, or the next size up is carried at Sunshine) size of **Pond’s Cold Cream** make-up remover. Pay no attention to the color of the lid/sensitive skin/etc. get the cheapest one and it’ll last forever and is FAR cheaper than getting “real” slide cream from a music store. Please stay away from Vaseline. The consistency is too sticky. Thanks!

**Percussionists** just need to make sure that their kits include the following: bell kit, practice drum pad, bell mallets and drum sticks. Drum sticks should be either 5B or SD-1 general type. Like so many things these days, there are endless varieties out there (including flaming sticks and glow-in-the dark varieties). These sticks are fun to play around with, but there is actually a huge difference in weight and sound between different sticks. We need the general playing sticks to develop properly. Thanks!

1. **A pencil!** (No need to bring a music stand if you have one. That can be kept at home for practice there. )

**START-UP SCHEDULE JUNE 2nd – 5th, 2015**

Tuesday: Wednesday-Friday:

8:30-10:00 – Flutes 8:00-9:00 – Flutes

10:15-11:45 – Clarinets and Saxophones 9:15-9:45 – Clarinets

LUNCH (for Miss J!) 10:00-10:30 – Saxophones

12:30-2:00 – Trumpets/Euphoniums/Tubas/ 10:30-11:00 – Trumpets

Horns/Trombones 11:00-11:30 – Horns

2:00-3:00 – Percussion LUNCH

12:15-12:45 – Trombones

12:45-1:15 – Euphoniums

1:15-1:45 – Tubas

1:45-2:15 – Percussion

Let me know if you have any questions! I’m very excited to begin this journey. It’s going to be a great class! ☺