MONDAY, May 16th, 2016

Greetings 4th graders!

Here are the results of the instrument physical tests based on first and second choices.

This year, it worked out that everyone got their first choice of an instrument! If there is any changing of minds, please double check with me at anytime so we can plan for instrument usage between now and the end of the school year.

A few of you still have to turn in your instrument choice form so I have your family’s contact information and permission for you to participate in band. Please return it to me ASAP (I’m in the band room daily at the start of the day) so we have confirmed who will be participating in band next year. This slip, along with other band information is always located on the band website at <http://chatfieldbands.weebly.com>.

Rental night is on **Monday, May 23rd**. Your parents will meet in the ES cafeteria (you may come along if you wish, but it’s not necessary). We’ll begin promptly at **6:30pm.**

If you play the **flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, or percussion** and don’t already have access to an instrument, you’ll need to bring a checkbook (or cash) to pay the initial down payment on your instrument (refer to the first letter if you need the amount – they’ll tell you there, too!). Both Schmitt Music Center and Welhaven Music will have representatives there to explain their rent-to-own type payment plans. (Don’t forget that there are a lot of people right here in Chatfield with nice used instruments hanging out in closets. Start talking with your friends and neighbors and you may be able to find a good used instrument!)

If you play the **euphonium, or tuba**, you’ll use a school instrument (unless you already have access to one at home. With these instruments, it’s pretty rare). We have to maintain these instruments in good playing order (need them to be chemically flushed every year), so you pay a usage fee for every year that you use the instrument. $40 per instrument, per year. If you’d like an instrument to have at home to practice (most people do!) it’s $80/yr. I’ll be at the rental night dealing with your instruments, so feel free to bring questions to me!

If you already own an instrument (or have access to one), you don’t need to bring it with you on Monday night. Once I am done introducing and explaining the program, you are free to sign up for summer lessons with me (summer schedules/family calendar are nice to have along) and then be on your way.

The evening will be done in under an hour. The presentation is a quick 15-20 minutes or less, then sign-up usually sees the last person go through by 7:15pm. Short and sweet! If you can’t make it to the rental night on Monday, please e-mail me at kjablonski@chatfield.k12.mn.us so we can make other arrangements for getting an instrument and lessons registered.

Due to the extremely high number of current band students taking lessons this summer, my schedule is already quite full (a great problem to have!). Lessons really are a critical part of getting students off on the right foot, so I want to make every effort to fit all who are interested into the schedule somehow. Mrs. Narveson (who is trained on all of the band instruments too) has offered to take overflow students that don’t fit on my schedule. As of now, I teach Monday-Thursday from 8:00am to 4:00pm. I have a few afternoon times left on Tuesdays and Thursday, but most of my open times are on Mondays and Wednesdays (a few morning spots left, but mostly afternoon). If you only have mornings available, we will try to get you signed up with another instructor. It is always a mad rush on rental night to get everyone all signed up. If you’d like to beat the rush and get a better chance of a desired lesson time, please email me at kjablonski@chatfield.k12.mn.us over the weekend. I will be checking my e-mail all weekend and will schedule lessons first-come, first serve. This may help allieviate some of the mob-mentality that can occur on Monday night. ☺ I’d appreciate trying to fill the afternoon time slots first that exist on this sheet, but if you need morning times, e-mail that information to me, too. Each lesson is 15 minutes long. We start right on the hour, so 8:00, 8;15, 8:30, 8:45, 9:00, 9:15, etc.etc.etc. will be the set-up.

I look forward to beginning the musical journey with your son/daughter!! Thank you!

Miss Katy Jablonski

Director of Bands, Chatfield Public Schools

kjablonski@chatfield.k12.mn.us, 507-867-4210 x 5181 (e-mail best! Even if you need to schedule a phone conversation!)