

HOLLIFIELD STATION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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School Website:

Instrumental Music website: <http://hollifieldstationband.weebly.com/>

Lisa J. Booth
Principal

Cheryl V. Santoni
Assistant Principal

Aaron Tark
Assistant Principal

September 5, 2018

Dear Students and Parents,

Greetings from the instrumental music department. My name is Karin Blackburn, the band and strings teacher. I am excited about working with you this year! I hope many of you are looking forward to playing either a band or strings instrument during the school year. This can be a very enjoyable and rewarding experience, both now and in the future. Traits such as responsibility and self-discipline are developed, as well as the excitement of making music with fellow students. I hope that those of you who already play an instrument will continue to do so. We will begin classes soon, so I hope you are doing some practicing! If you don't play an instrument, I'd like to encourage you to consider signing up. As usual, **fourth grade** students may sign up for **beginning band**, and third grade students may sign-up for orchestra (strings).

MAKING A COMMITMENT

It would be just wonderful if everyone experienced the enjoyment and satisfaction of playing a musical instrument and participating in band or orchestra. However, it requires a commitment. Please evaluate the time you have in your schedule, including any extra activities. Out-of-school practicing should be done every day for at least 15 minutes for beginners and 30 minutes for second Year students. If you have that much time available, you have what it Takes to be in the band or orchestra. Students and parents will be asked to sign a contract of commitment lasting through the Winter Concert. A new contract will be issued for the spring semester.

CHOOSING AN INSTRUMENT

ALL PARTICIPATING STUDENTS MUST COMPLETE A REGISTRATION FORM: On the registration form (attached), please list three (3) instruments you would like to play (in order of preference). I will make the final decision based on your choice, physical characteristics, availability, and the band's relative need for the various instruments. Please be aware that certain instruments like the saxophone are extremely popular. I can only accept a certain number of each instrument. If your child chooses a popular instrument, he/she may need to settle for their second choice. Although your child may not receive his/her first choice instrument, I will do my best to make sure your child is happy with the final decision. If financial considerations are preventing you from participation, the school does have a limited number of instruments available, first come, first serve: trumpet, trombone, baritone, French horn and cello.

INSTRUMENT CHOICES:

Students following instrument choices.

Third grade: violin, viola and cello.

Fourth grade: clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, French horn, baritone, tuba, percussion and flute.

The band is always in need of trombones, French horns, and baritones. If you choose one of these three instruments, you are almost guaranteed your first choice. **The instrumental program does not include piano or guitar.** Most students will need to **rent or buy** instruments. The school does have a few instruments available. The school has the following instruments that may be borrowed for the school year: **Trombone, Baritone, Tuba, Bass Clarinet, Cello and Viola.** There are only one or two of each instrument. I am excited about the program this year. Once I have received the registration form, a rental information letter will be sent home with your child's instrument assignment.

Sincerely,

Karin Blackburn, Instrumental Director

