

Spring Lake Intermediate School Band

Dear Fifth Grade Parents:

School has now begun and it's time to start band! Starting TOMORROW, we will be fitting students with the instrument that works the best for them. We hope to be done with this in the first week. At that time, we will develop a band list of all the students and the instruments they will be playing. Just about everyone will get their first instrument choice, but some students may need to play a second choice if we need more of that instrument. This is where you come in.

Before we can fit each student, we would like you to talk to your child about participation in band and fill out the section at the bottom of this page. We need to have the bottom portion of the page to be returned when the student comes for his or her fitting. After we are done with all the students, we will post a list at school and on our website detailing which instrument best fits your son or daughter.

Contact Information

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www.springlakebands.org

Each student needs to get an instrument to play. The best choice is to rent an instrument from a reputable dealer. Meyer Music (located by the Lakes Mall) will be at our fifth grade parent open house on September 13th with instruments so you can pick one up here at the school. You can also go directly to the store and rent one. If you are purchasing or borrowing a used instrument, please have it checked at the shop at Meyer to make sure it is a quality instrument and in good working condition. We would like all the trumpet students to start on a trumpet this year, not a cornet. Please make a note of it. Also, please do not be tempted by the inexpensive instruments that are popping up at Sam's Club, Wal-Mart and Meijer. They will not play well, last long and are nearly impossible to repair. Your child will also need the book, "Band Expressions". This is available at Meyer Music also. If you forget the title, just tell them that your child goes to Spring Lake – they have the name of the book on file. One other purchase that would really jumpstart your child's progress is Smartmusic. It only costs \$36 per year and is an amazing way to get going quickly on an instrument. You can read about it at: www.smartmusic.com

The parent open house this year is on September 13th from 4pm -5:30pm in the Middle School band room. We will always have all the information at www.springlakebands.org Even though it's not a required class, we'd love for all the fifth graders to take part in band – it's such a great experience! Please encourage your child to be a part of this class and **remember that it is a minimum one- year commitment.** Many times, it takes several months for the instrument to "click" with the student, so quitting after a few weeks not only messes up the scheduling, but isn't indicative of the student's possible ability on the instrument. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us anytime. We're looking forward to a GREAT year!

____ Yes! I am interested in band and wish to try out an instrument! I understand that it doesn't always come easily and I am committed to work my hardest on this instrument for my **entire fifth grade year.**

____ No. We're not interested and we realize that starting an instrument in later grades is not possible.

Please mark your first, second and third choices.

____ Flute ____ Trumpet Classroom Teacher _____

____ Clarinet ____ Trombone

____ Percussion (limited openings for students with piano experience – will add some more from other sections in February)

Name _____

Parent's Signature _____