

TO: 5th Grade Parents/Guardians
FROM: Sheryl Martin, Band Director
RE: 5th Grade Beginning Band

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Shortly we will be starting the exciting adventure of learning to play a band instrument. I have met with the students this week to refresh the concepts we covered last spring. This included different instruments of the band, balanced instrumentation, how to obtain and instrument and to answer any questions they had.

The instruments used in the Rapid City Public School's elementary band are Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, French horn, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba, and Percussion.

Students must supply their own instrument and books. There are many different ways to obtain these instruments but the most reliable recommended are:

- 1) Renting an instrument from a local reliable music store. These stores provide a quality instrument for a small rental fee.
- 2) Using a family member or neighbor's instrument. (Make sure it is in good working condition; have it checked out by a professional repairperson.)
- 3) Watching the newspaper and Craig's List for instruments being sold. (Again, make sure they are in good playing condition.)
- 4) Contact the **Boy's Club 343-3500** and get an instrument through the DACODA Music Program (students must maintain a passing grade in band to use the instrument)
- 5) The book used is **Standards of Excellence Book 1**, for their particular instrument.

I hope that you will have the opportunity to visit with your child about the possibility of playing in the school band. Band will begin September 5th. A schedule is attached to this letter.

Please let me know if you have any question!

Sheryl Martin

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