

Mendham Township Public Schools Instrumental Music Department

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Mendham Township Instrumental Music Program! I am very pleased that your child has decided to become part of the beginning band program. I am writing to give you some information concerning your child's musical experience and what type of commitment will be expected of you and your child as members of the Mendham Township Instrumental Music Program.

As your child's band directors we are pleased to announce that several changes to the band program have been made! Lesson groups will meet every **Wednesday** and **Thursday** and be kept small with an average of four to six students per group. Students will perform a Holiday Concert as well as a Spring Concert. In addition many critical materials have been made to outfit the needs of our growing instrumental music program. I would like to extend a special thanks to our principal Michael Craver, Superintendent Christine Johnson, and the Mendham Township Board of Education in appreciation of their continued support of the instrumental program. Together, it will be our mission to improve upon and provide a challenging musical education for your sons and daughters. The instrumental music program here in Mendham Township now represents over 80% of the students in fourth grade, including our string players!!!

Attached is a copy of the practice record. Ideally, students should practice fifteen minutes a day to allow for an appropriate rate of musical development. On the lower portion of each practice record there is a section called mini-concerts. Mini-concerts are three short performances that students are required to perform for you (the parents). This is designed to help you become more involved in your child's musical process. You do not have to musically coach your child, just take a moment and listen to what they have to play. Students will be given credit on their personal progress record for each practice sheet completed, signed, and turned in. If your child is interested in private lessons please see either Mr. Branch or me for a list of private lesson teachers.

Music is a team-oriented activity! Students enrolled in the beginning band program are expected to maintain a regular level of attendance in full band rehearsals. As a team we can achieve a greater standard of excellence, and derive a higher level of satisfaction from musical expression. Having regularly scheduled full band rehearsals gives us the ability to work toward, and achieve musical goals. Before-school band rehearsals are the backbone of your child's music education and are scheduled to meet every **Monday** and **Thursday** morning that school is in session starting **Monday, October 15th**. Students are asked to arrive at school by **7:50 am** so that they can be in their seats ready to play by **8:00am**.

I understand that the logistics involved in getting your sons and daughters to school early in the morning can be an inconvenience for many of you. To ease the difficulty that some may have with this early morning commitment, I would like to help by organizing a car pooling program connecting students without rides to parents who are willing to offer a ride to school early in the morning. Simply fill out the attached

questionnaire and return it to me at your earliest convenience. We will do our best to offer solutions to your circumstantial challenges posed by early morning band rehearsals as quickly as possible.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns we can be reached at the following phone numbers and email address: Elementary School (973) 543-7107 ext. 305, Middle School 973-543-2505 ext. 625 or email rpokryska@mendhamtp.org, rbranch@mendhamtp.org

Musically Yours,

Ronald Pokryska
Russell Branch

Please detach and return questionnaire for processing.

Name _____ phone # (____) _____

e-mail _____

(check those that apply)

- **It is not a problem for me to drive my own children to early morning band rehearsals.**

- **I am willing to have my name and number put on a list so that other parents may contact me concerning rides to school for band rehearsals.**

-Mondays

-Thursdays

- **Getting my son or daughter to school by 7:50am is a challenge for me and I am in need of assistance.**

-Mondays

-Thursdays