Dear 5th grade Families and Students,

It is time to get ready for 6th Grade Beginning Band! The West Aurora Band program is widely known for excellence, and we can’t wait for you to become a part of it! Today, we presented information about band in West Aurora, demonstrated what instruments we teach in Beginning Band, and explained how to sign up.

To learn more and join Beginning Band, simply attend these three events!

1. **Beginning Band Informational Meetings** - Herget Middle School
   (1550 Deerpark Rd, Aurora, IL 60506)
   - Parents should attend one of these two meetings at Herget Middle School
     
     **Tuesday, December 7 at 7:00pm or Saturday, December 11 at 9:00am**
     
     - Band directors will demonstrate each band instrument and give detailed information about 6th grade Beginning Band. At this meeting, parents will sign up for a day/time for their student to meet their future band teacher and discuss their instrument choices.

2. **Instrument Selection Conferences**
   - Held during school at your elementary school
   - 5th grade band students meet individually with their band director to select band instruments they are interested in playing. Written information will be sent home after each meeting.
   - Parents do not need to attend, but they may come if they like.

3. **Instrument Reservation Day** - Jefferson Middle School (1151 Plum St Aurora, IL 60506)
   - Held on **Saturday, January 22, 2022** from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at Jefferson Middle School
   - The process should take about 15-30 minutes, depending on how busy it is when you arrive.
   - Parents reserve their student’s instrument and purchase necessary supplies.
   - **Important!** Please bring your student’s Chromebook or a cell phone to reduce sharing of devices during the checkout process.
   - We strongly encourage you to come to this event hosted by Music and Arts, our preferred vendor. The supplies and instruments you purchase or rent on this day have been carefully selected by our band teachers. If your instrument is not reserved on this day, it will be your responsibility to complete the instrument rental process on your own prior to the start of 6th grade.

Additionally, to learn more about our band program, all our 5th grade students will travel to West Aurora High School in the morning on Tuesday, November 23 to experience **Band Day!**, a band concert presented by our very own West Aurora High School Bands Department. 5th grade teachers and other school staff members will accompany the students on the buses to and from West Aurora High School. It is understood that school authorities will take reasonable precautions regarding student safety and welfare, including ensuring that all COVID-19 guidelines are followed. Each student is responsible for his/her conduct while representing West Aurora School District 129. If you have any questions or concerns about this trip, please contact Jonathan McLear, K-12 Fine Arts Curriculum Coordinator at jmclear@sd129.org or (630) 301-6565.

We are looking forward to welcoming our new band members!
Please contact us if you have any questions. See you soon!

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