



Dear 4th Grade Students and Parents,

Hello! My name is Kristen Jacobsen. I will be the 5th grade band director at Liberty, Freedom, and Horizon Elementary Schools beginning in the 2017-2018 school year. I am already looking forward to next year, and I hope you will consider joining the wonderful Harrisburg band program!

Before you head out the door to begin your summer plans, I would like to invite you to attend a **Beginning Band INSTRUMENT OPEN HOUSE**. This event is for all current 4th grade students, along with a parent or guardian, interested in learning more about 5th grade band.

Students will have an opportunity to try different instruments and mouthpieces to see which instrument best fits their interests and physical characteristics. Band directors and representatives from Schmitt Music and Popplers Music will be available to answer questions.

This event will be held on TWO evenings:

Monday, May 15 at Journey Elementary, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Tuesday, May 16 at Freedom Elementary, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Stop in at either location as your schedule allows.

Below you will find a sign-up sheet to officially get signed-up for 5th grade band. **We will be collecting these at the open house. Printed copies will be available, or you can bring a printed copy of your own.**

If you are unable to attend the open house or have other questions, please email me at kristen.n.jacobsen@k12.sd.us. You are also welcome to call me at 605-274-7464. I am looking forward to meeting you soon!

Sincerely,

Kristen Jacobsen

(TO BE TURNED IN AT THE OPEN HOUSE)

YES! I want to join 5th grade band!

Student Name: _____

School Attending 5th grade (circle):

EXPLORER ENDEAVOR JOURNEY

LIBERTY FREEDOM HORIZON

Parent Name: _____

Parent Email: _____

Circle which instrument you would like to officially sign up to play in 5th grade band.
Please wait to make a decision until AFTER you have a chance to try the instruments at the open house.

FLUTE CLARINET ALTO SAX

TENOR SAX TRUMPET FRENCH HORN

TROMBONE BARITONE TUBA

PERCUSSION (one year of piano lessons required)

HARRISBURG 5TH GRADE BAND

- 5TH grade group band meets three times per week for 30 minutes.
- Each band students will receive one lesson per week (individual or small group).
- Lessons and group band are scheduled during regular school hours.
- Students will be given a practice assignment each week, and they are expected to practice these assignments at home. An assignment is typically content from a page in the student's method book.
- Students should set a practice goal of 100 minutes per week (20 minutes, 5 days per week...or other combinations, but spreading out practice time throughout the week is most beneficial)
- PRACTICE LOGS: Weekly lessons and practice assignments will be written in a practice log in the front of a student's method book. Students will log their practice time each week and parents will be asked to sign and monitor weekly.
- Supplies needed:
 1. Instrument
 2. Method book (Essential Elements 2000, Book 1)
 3. Folder for sheet music
 4. Reeds/oils/cleaning swabs depending on instrument:
 - a. Clarinet & Sax: reeds (medium or 2.5 strength), cleaning swab
 - b. Trumpet, Baritone, Tuba: valve oil
 - c. French Horn: rotary oil
 - d. Trombone: slide oil, recommended "Slide O Mix"
 5. Pencil to keep in instrument case
- PERFORMANCES: There are two required concert performances during the school year: one winter concert (typically Nov or Dec) and one spring concert (typically April or May). One unrequired performance is our "Harrisburg Music Boosters Showcase" performance concert (in March) at the Washington Pavilion.

Questions? Feel free to contact!

Mrs. Elizabeth Martinez

elizabeth.martinez@k12.sd.us

Harrisburg Journey, Explorer & Endeavor Elementary, 5th Grade Band Director

Mrs. Kristen Jacobsen

kristen.n.jacobsen@k12.sd.us

Harrisburg Liberty, Freedom, and Horizon Elementary, 5th Grade Band Director

CHOOSING & FINDING AN INSTRUMENT

(Questions not answered in this document? Please reach out!
elizabeth.martinez@k12.sd.us or kristen.n.jacobsen@k12.sd.us)

Once your son/daughter has decided to join band, the next step is to choose an instrument! Helping students find an instrument that interests them is very important to us, but we also want to consider which one will be the best fit. Sometimes there are physical attributes that should be considered. Combining interest with a well matched instrument will help students be successful. The Instrument Open House on May 15th and 16th will be an excellent opportunity to gain some of this knowledge! Your son/daughter does not actually need an instrument until the school year starts. The first day of band will be held the first full week of school.

If your family already has an instrument your child is interested in playing, please make sure it is in good working condition by having it checked at a reputable music store. You are also welcome to bring it to the Open House.

If you do not already have access to an instrument, we recommend you rent from a music store. The stores we recommend are easy to work with for payments and repairs, especially for beginners. Recommended local stores are listed on the next page of this document. Please do not buy online, and do not complete any purchase transactions until having the instrument looked over by someone who can tell you if it is in proper playing condition. Please also reference the "Off-Brand Musical Instrument Alert" published by the South Dakota Bandmasters Association at the bottom of this document.

Beginning band instruments include: Flute, Clarinet, Alto Sax, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba, and Percussion.

At Harrisburg, we have a limited number of French Horns, Baritones, and Tubas available for student rental. These are issued on a limited basis. The rental fee is \$50 per school year, paid to the Harrisburg School District.

Percussion: If your son/daughter is interested in playing percussion, they will be most successful (and have the most fun!) in the short-term and long-term if they have prior knowledge and can demonstrate proficiency on keyboard/piano. For this reason, at least one year of piano lessons is required.

While percussion students in the Harrisburg district will eventually play all instruments in the percussion section (xylophone, marimba, keyboard bells, snare drum, bass drum, timpani, cymbals, other auxiliary percussion, etc.) throughout middle/high school, we focus primarily on mallet percussion the entire first semester. At the Open House, a music educator will be available to provide a series of short mallet percussion playing assessments to help your son/daughter determine if percussion is the right fit for them.

Percussion students will need a starting percussion kit which includes a xylophone-bell set, mallets, practice pad, and drumsticks.

Recommended Instrument Rental & Supply Stores

Popplers Music, Sioux Falls (formerly K&M Music), (605) 336-6332
www.popplersmusic.com

Schmitt Music, Sioux Falls, (605) 339-6030
<https://www.schmittmusic.com/stores/sioux-falls/>

Taylor Music, Aberdeen, 1-800-872-2263
www.1800usaband.com

The information below is an open letter to all band parents and educators in SD from the South Dakota Bandmasters Association:

OFF-BRAND MUSICAL INSTRUMENT ALERT

Due to the increased production and distribution of instruments manufactured overseas (primarily in China or India) the South Dakota Bandmasters found the need to inform and educate beginning band students and their parents of the sub-par construction and performance of inexpensive, off-brand and/or private label band instruments. Hopefully, with the aid of this letter, band directors can prevent parents from making an unwise investment for their beginning band student.

Quality Horns

The SD Bandmasters organization strongly encourages the purchase of student-line instruments at reputable or local music stores. Reputable music stores continue to deal quality instruments and will stand behind their products with warranties. Repairs on quality instruments are done easily at local or reputable music stores and many times fall under the warranty provided when a new instrument is bought.

Off-Brand Instruments

The “off-brand” instruments are most commonly found at “box” or discount stores, various internet websites or internet auctions. In some instances, the instruments have a faulty design or are constructed with sub-standard materials. These instruments many times come with little or no warranty and frequently can’t be returned because the company or party that the instrument was bought from no longer exists. Repairs on some imported instruments can’t (and won’t) be done because of the faulty design or sub-standard materials that they are made from and replacement parts for these instruments don’t exist.

The SD Bandmasters want to make playing a musical instrument a positive experience for students and a sound investment for parent/guardians. There are two key ingredients to making this happen. First, parents need to consult with their local band director before the purchase of an instrument and second, instrument purchases should be made at local or reputable music stores. Hopefully by doing so, the experience will turn into an enjoyable activity that will last a lifetime.