



PARENT INFORMATION MEETING AGENDA

Welcome Beginning Band & Orchestra Recruits

August 31, 2017

1. Registration Forms

Welcome! This meeting will be a short but important one. Please sign our **BLUE** record of attendance before you leave tonight. We will be sending home duplicate information to those interested parents who were unable to attend this evening. If you are positive your child is joining one of our organizations, then we ask you to also fill out a **YELLOW** registration card this evening to do so. This **YELLOW** card will finalize your child's participation in band or orchestra. If you do not fill out a **YELLOW** registration card this evening and your child is still joining, we ask that the **YELLOW** registration card be turned in to us by **Tuesday, September 5th.**

2. Why Join a Performing Ensemble

There are many benefits for your child being a member of the Band or Orchestra here at Nord.

-Accomplishment
-Teamwork
-Self Discipline
-Builds Self-Esteem
-Nice kids play Instruments
-Playing is FUN!
-Adds quality to life
-No one sits on the bench
-Good Grades

3. What has been done?

A. On Tuesday, August 29th, all 5th grade perspective members attended an assembly demonstrating all the instruments available to them to begin on this fall.

B. On Wednesday and Thursday of this week, your children were encouraged to try the two instruments they were most interest in playing.

C. As they tried their instruments of choice our technicians indicated how successful they were in producing a "beginning sound".

3 Stars = Excellent

2 Stars = Good

1 Star = Fair

D. If you did not see your child's results, we have a copy of the trial form and will be glad to look up your child's immediately after the meeting. Just let us know.

E. The following information was sent home with each 5th grade student sometime this week: It is important for us to establish a good sense of communication at such a young age:

....Recruitment schedule with all dates.

....Student's copy of the instrument trial form.

....Instrument brochure on instruments available for choice this fall with a tear-off to return if your child was interested in learning more about Beginning Band and Orchestra.

.....Announcement regarding tonight's Meeting

F. IMPORTANT: YELLOW Enrollment cards should be turned in TONIGHT if you would like your child to begin in band or orchestra.

G. The following Instruments are available for students: Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass, Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, and Percussion. For Band instruments, we recommend the above list with the knowledge that some may switch to other instruments as they get older.

H. If your child's interest was in percussion, he/she was tested and could have received an invitation to join. Because of the high numbers of interest, we

needed to be somewhat picky on how many to accept. If your child did not receive an invitation, we ask that they begin on their 2nd choice of instrument.

4. Instrument Specific Notes

A. Things to consider when renting a String Instrument. Included in your package: Rosin, Soft cloth to clean with, Shoulder rest for Violins/Violas, Rock stops for Cello/Basses, and a music stand for home practice.

B. Other things to consider when acquiring a Wind or Percussion Instrument. For Woodwinds: extra reeds and cleaning towel. For Brass: a polishing cloth and valve/slide oil. For Percussion: and extra pair of sticks, a practice pad, and if necessary, a cart to carry the drum and case. All students should have a wire music stand for home practice.

B. Ms Ballmer would like to emphasize renting and not purchasing right away for the various reasons: Size of instruments vary as the student grows. When renting, you are covered for lost, stolen, or damaged parts if you carry the insurance.

C. If you are renting a Cello or a Bass, they stay at home for practicing as they are prohibited to be transported on a school bus. School owned instruments will be supplied to your child to be used for rehearsals during the school day.

5. What does the year look like?

A. Students will receive group lessons during their Music Special once a week. It is important for every student to remember their instrument. Students will not miss any academic class time by being in Band or Orchestra. All rehearsal is done during a music specific class or activity period.

B. After students get used to holding and producing a sound on their instrument, We will begin to have additional Full Group Rehearsals twice a week at 2PM on Tuesday's and Thursday's during what we call Activity period.

C. Playing a musical instrument does require practicing outside of the school setting. We ask that your child set aside 10-20 minutes for daily practice.

D. Band and Orchestra is a class at Nord and students will get a grade and credit for their Music requirement through this organization. Because it is a class, students just can't drop and attend another class. Because it takes time to learn how to play an instrument correctly, we require students to attend for the entire school year. Again, being that it is a class and they get a grade for it helps with this.

E. Can my child be in Choir? **Please Note:** Your child can and may participate in both Band and Choir with very little to no **EXTRA** time. Choir students will rehearse on Tuesdays in the afternoon and will be excused from that day's Band or Orchestra rehearsal. We have worked it out so students can do both.

6. What are some other requirements

A. To play in a musical ensemble means that you get to participate in performances! Nord Band and Orchestra will have 2 concerts this year. Our first Demonstration Concert will be on Monday, December 11th in the Nord Gym. We will let you know after we get started what the spring dates are for our Spring Concerts.

B. All students will use the **Essential Elements Band/String Beginning Book 1 for Group Lessons**. You should be able to get this book through your rental company. If you are going with something different or already have an instrument, you may click on the link we have on the Nord Band Page to take you to an online distributor to purchase the book.

C. **Lessons will begin the week of September 11th.** We ask that all students either rent or get their instrument in order by that week. If you have any questions regarding instruments, please see one of the Directors.

D. Be careful shopping for a good instrument. The general rule applies that you get what you pay for. There are knockoffs that may be cheap, work for a week, and then break with no way to repair the instrument. Also, please avoid the "catchy" colorful instruments as those tend to not be of high quality and then stick out of the ensemble while on stage. Most of the time, getting a low quality instrument can create poor quality and creates discouragement in your little ones.

7. Rental Programs