Dear Instrumental Students, Parents, and Guardians:

 I am thrilled to continue the band program at Most Blessed Sacrament! This year my father, Pete Hittle and I will continue to co-teach the beginner band students and the advanced group. Our rehearsals will begin Wednesday, August 8, 2018. The advanced band group will meet during fourth hour in St. Ursula Hall or in the Bishop Ott Center, which will be considered activity hour for all of middle school. This period will last roughly 50 minutes on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Fridays. The beginner band students will meet Mr. Hittle in the Bishop Ott Center. Beginners will have designated times and days for sectionals. You can access the schedule on my Weebly web page.

 Learning an instrument is fun, yet challenging. Each student that decides to participate in the band program will need to acquire skills that all musicians possess such as determination, patience, and responsibility. Our goal is to have a positive and exciting time while learning basic knowledge about music. As your child gains proficiency in their instrument, you will see that they will carry these skills in their future endeavors. Here is what we need from you to help your child achieve these goals:

1. Choose an instrument that fits your child and is in demand, for example: percussion is one of the most requested instruments but is in the ***least*** demand for middle school bands. However, flutes, clarinets, trombones, trumpets, etc. are in higher demand. (Any student requesting to play percussion MUST have two prior years experience of either piano or strings.)

2. Obtain the instrument by either renting it through a local music dealer or purchasing one, if you choose. We have had a local music company come to the school to allow interested students to hold and experience the instruments.

3. If your child is a beginner please purchase the *Standard of Excellence Book I* *or II* for your child’s instrument, depending on their level in band. (The book is roughly $8.00 and will sufficient for the entire school year. This book is available through a local music dealer or online.

4. Throughout the course of the year, the student should take the instrument home everyday and ***practice for at least 30 minutes 5 days a week***.

5. Participating in the band program (both the first year program and the advanced program) will require a ***$250.00 fee*** ***per semester*** for a total of ***$500 for school the year***. You may pay in full or by the semester and the checks may be made out to MBS. No refunds will be given. ***The band program is considered an extracurricular activity and is not funded by the school.*** If a student chooses to take private extra lessons during the summer or school year, it is not included in this price. A price will be established with Mr. Hittle and Mrs. Schiebe separately.

6. Each student is required to attend the 2 concerts. These two concerts will be performed along with the MBS Choir. ***The students are required to stay until the end of the entire program in order to support their classmates and clean up the stands and chairs.*** ***The Christmas concert will take place on Tuesday, December 4th, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in St. Urusla, and the Spring concert on Monday, May 6th, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.*** Student will be required to be at school and ready to warm-up by 5:30 p.m. for each concert. Everyone must attend as we count on eachother to have the optimum performance!

7. Sectional rehearsals may be called throughout the year by either Mrs. Schiebe or Mr. Hittle. This may either include all of one section or multiple sections.

***Students are only allowed to have three excused absences throughout the semester.******Please contact myself or Mr. Hittle 24 hours in advance if a student is going to miss a rehearsal.*** Rehearsals may be set aside for sectionals. Student’s instrument sections may not be called on a particular day and therefore are not required to attend rehearsal. Students and parents **MUST** be aware of the schedule at all times. In the case of cancellations/changes***, I will be communicating via the Remind 101 app. From this app you will receive a text message regarding the updates, cancellations, changes, etc. Simply send a text message to the number (225) 330-7801 with the message, @6ad4 which is the class code for band.***

 Each student will need to bring pencil to write down assignments and notes throughout the rehearsal as well as any materials given in band. Students are ***EXPECTED*** to maintain their instruments by cleaning them properly after every rehearsal and private practice in order to participate to their best potential.

If interested, I recommend that students take private lessons if time and money allow. This will help students have quality one-on-one instruction that cannot be accomplished in such a short class period. If you would like to partake in private lessons, contact me directly via e-mail and I will set your student up with a teacher or myself outside of my school hours.

Keep in mind that our goal is to have a fun time while educating ourselves for the future and learn about music in a kinesthetic way. ***The more discipline and determination each student puts into their instrument, the more music we can explore and have fun with!***

Yours truly,

Mrs. Schiebe

E-mail address: ahittle@mbsbr.org

(Please sign and return to Mrs. Schiebe by Wednesday, August 8 , 2018)

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I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ give my child, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ (grade)permission to participate in the Band program. I understand that my child must be present at all rehearsals or I will contact you 24 hours in advance if there is a conflict. I will encourage my child to practice everyday and keep their instrument in proper working order even if I must get it repaired. I also agree that my child will be present at both concerts and their instrument will be in working order at the time of the performance.

Parent Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent e-mail:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Student Shirt Size: YM YL AS AM

Daytime Phone number:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ AL AXL AXXL (please order a size bigger so it fits the entire year- no exchanges will be made)

***\* Please attach money or check made out to MBS \****