

September 2018

Dear Fifth Grade Parents:

We are getting ready to start a new year of music, and in fifth grade all students will be beginning a band instrument! Victor has a strong history of band, and I intend to continue that. Playing a musical instrument is a lifelong skill that will continue to give joy, focus, a sense of community, and creative and emotional fulfillment long after a student's school years.

Generally speaking, students who study an instrument (including voice) tend to also be high academic achievers. Performing in a musical ensemble cultivates self-discipline, cooperation, social skills, and creative expression. **All students in fifth and sixth grades in Victor participate in Band.** These first two years give students a foundation on an instrument and teach the fundamentals of music reading and theory. Once they have that, in seventh grade Band becomes optional.

During the first week of school, students who do not have any experience with an instrument will learn about the different instruments, have a chance to try them out, and make a selection of their first, second, and third choice. **Instrument choices will be finalized by the Band Director**, balancing out the numbers of instruments in the group and also based upon the inventory available at the school. Instrument rentals from the school inventory will be \$50 for the school year, and a form will be sent home regarding the rental. If the rental fee is a hardship for your family, you will be able to ask for a waiver.

There will be a **Band Night on September 11, at 6:30pm in the Music Room.** You are all invited to come and learn more about the Band program, ask questions, and explore other rental or purchase opportunities. Obviously if you own or rent an instrument outside of school, you will not need to depend on school inventory. Rooted Music in Hamilton will be here on site; they offer rental and purchase options and can help answer questions about musical opportunities in the Bitterroot Valley.

I am looking forward to meeting all of your children, furthering Music Education here in Victor, and answering your questions on all things musical. Please do not hesitate to call me at the school, or email me at schnarr@victor.k12.mt.us.

Sincerely,

Heidi Schnarr

Victor K-12 Schools Music Director