Bertha Barber

Dear Parents,

The screening process for band is complete. The instrument that your child and I have agreed upon is: . I have also attached a list of our recommended instrument brands and accessories and a copy of the Elementary Band Handbook. The last page of the handbook needs to be signed and turned in. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email melissa.watzke@bpsne.net or call me at Mission Middle (402-293-4286).

There are many music retailers in the area. Please check the yellow pages and shop around. Many different rental and purchase plans are available to you. Locally there is Dietze music, off of Cornhusker just west of Ruby Tuesday’s. Feel free to go into Omaha as well. These stores guarantee the instrument to be in playing condition. If purchasing a used instrument privately, please have it inspected to insure that it is in playing condition. I can sometimes do this for you. **PLEASE do not buy instruments other than those brands listed on the attached sheet.** I have worked with other poor quality instruments, which often cannot be repaired, and any student that began on these other instruments had to replace them with a recommended brand within a few months.

*I do have a limited number of instruments that can be checked out by the district. Please note that due to these limited numbers, these instruments should be reserved for those who have a financial need. Several students have told me that they are in need of one of these instruments, but I really need to hear this from a parent. If you have not already, please contact me by* ***MONDAY*** *if you are in need of a school owned instrument. Please note that if you have not already contacted me expressing a need, I may not be able to give your child their first choice.* If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call or email.

Once your student has acquired an instrument, I ask that he/she **NOT** remove the instrument from the case until after I have taught him/her how to assemble and maintain the instrument. There is nothing more disheartening than getting a new instrument to school and having it NOT WORK because it was assembled improperly at home. Also, if a student starts playing the instrument without proper instruction, improper playing habits can develop VERY quickly and are very difficult for the beginner to correct.

I am very excited to have your child as a beginning band student. The instrument will need to be brought to school the week of **September 4th** (see schedule below). If you are having difficulty locating an instrument for your child, please contact me as soon as possible and I will do what I can to assist you in your search.

Mrs. Melissa Watzke