

ANCHOR BAY SCHOOLS

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT

ANCHORBAYBANDS.ORG



February 12th, 2025

Dear 4th and 5th Grade Band Families:

You and your child will soon begin the scheduling process for next year! This letter is intended to provide information for your child's decision to join 5th or 6th Grade Band – a decision that will enhance your child's overall education.

One factor to consider when scheduling your child for band is their enjoyment for performing music. Many students start the year knowing little to nothing about reading music and nothing about their chosen instrument. Band is a great way to be artistic and become involved in a school activity with friends!

Instrumental music in Anchor Bay offers your child many benefits:

- **Puts the "Arts" in STEM to create STEAM – giving students added educational advantages**
- **Builds Self-Confidence & Increases Sense of Accomplishment**
- **Improves Communication Skills & Standardized Test Scores**
- **Cultivates Creativity & Develops Coordination**
- **Fosters Responsibility & Self-Discipline**
- **Develops Social Skills & Ability to Work with Others**
- **Creates a Lifelong Appreciation for Music and the Arts**

Moreover, if continued at the high school level, it will also fulfill the Fine Arts Credit required for high school graduation. We are positive this is the beginning of a musical and educational path that will enrich your child's life in many ways for years to come. For more information about the high school and middle school programs visit us on the web at anchorbaybands.org.

Another aspect to consider when your child is scheduling for Band is music education's positive impact on your child's development, especially in the critical years of middle school. Band is a successive class from year to year. Current band students are already familiar with the subject and will know many of their classmates already. Band is a nurturing environment in which their creative mind can flourish. Various studies have concluded that musically trained students have a higher salary, achieve higher GPAs, and perform better on standardized tests (like the SAT) than their non-music peers. Signing up for band in 5th and 6th grade is the first step to a lifelong appreciation of the arts and personal fulfillment which is unmatched in any other subject.

As your child graduates to middle school, we understand that you may be worried about the increased homework and high stakes testing that your child will be subject to. This is even more reason for you to stick with music instruction! Although it may sometimes seem that the goal of school is to test for the memorization of facts, we know that school is to help your child grow into an inquisitive adult with critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Without instrumental music education as part of their day, your child will be missing out on some uniquely important life lessons and tools. As your child progresses in the Anchor Bay Instrumental Music Program, you will be hard-pressed to find an activity that offers a more rewarding return than your child's musical involvement.

Your child deserves the best, most well-rounded education that this school district can offer! Please feel free to ask your band teacher any questions you may have regarding your child scheduling band at the 6th grade level. [Ms. Kirven \(ABMS North\)](#) and [Mr. Fenton \(ABMS South\)](#) are also valuable resources to answer any questions about scheduling. When your child signs up for band, they are continuing participation in one of the most consistently successful organizations in the Anchor Bay School District. Band begins in 5th and 6th grade, but music knowledge lasts a lifetime!

In the best interest of your child,

The Anchor Bay School District Instrumental Music Staff