

Dear parents/guardians,

Welcome to the Garwood Whaley Music Program! Our program was selected as the official program of instrumental instruction for the Diocese of Arlington Schools in 1979. Taking part in band automatically places your child in a worthwhile school activity that teaches discipline and cooperation. Band members can perform in school concerts, the Diocese Band Festival, school band trip, and the Diocese Honor Band. Many of our graduates continue participating in band in high school and beyond.

Classes of instrument instruction are offered during the school day on a rotating schedule. This ensures that your child will not miss the same class week after week. Instruction is given on flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, and percussion. There are opportunities for students to switch to oboe, French horn, baritone, or tuba. All students will start in beginning band. While in this group, students will learn how to properly care for and maintain their instrument as well as how to play. We will focus on what fingers to press down or what slide position from day one. We will also work on tone production of the instrument. The beginning band has 2 performances during the year. They will perform in the winter concert (December or January) and a spring concert (May). Students that show major progress may be promoted to Advanced Band during the school year based on instrumentation needs.

Payments information can be found on the Lesson and Tuition Agreement (Registration Form) that is also attached in this email. Payments may be made 1, 2, or 4 times during the school year. Payments are accepted as checks. **Please make checks payable to GARWOOD WHALEY MUSIC PROGRAM.**

Music instruments can be rented at the various Music and Arts stores in the Northern Virginia region. There are locations in Alexandria, Springfield, Burke, and Woodbridge to name a few. The staff is very knowledgeable and can go over all the rental options that they offer. Students will also need Essential Elements Book 1 for their instrument. It can be purchased at Music and Arts.

In closing, I am really looking forward to having your child in our school band. Band is a fun activity that also has major educational value. Band offers students performance opportunities, a chance to make lifelong friends, and helps with cognitive development. Band has been a major part of my life and always will be. I myself was educated in the Catholic school system from K-12. I started band in 4<sup>th</sup> Grade and continued into high school and college. I am currently a member of the Army Reserve Music Program. I look forward to working with you child this year! LET'S GO BAND!!!

Thank you,

Michael Evans

Band Teacher

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