

June 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I met with your child to discuss the 5<sup>th</sup> grade instrumental program for next year. This is an exciting time for the 4<sup>th</sup> graders as most will be taking steps towards playing an instrument for the very first time. Through 'Link-Up,' the high school band visits, and other various school programs, the students have been exposed and introduced to the options we offer here in the Ridgewood public schools.

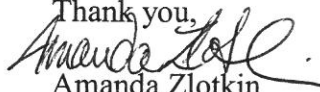
Beginning instrumental music is a rewarding and highly anticipated learning experience, though not mandatory. Beginning instrumental music is only offered in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade; there are no beginning instrumental lessons offered in the middle school or high school. Participation gives students the best possible advantage for long-range success and the opportunity to discover a new interest. It will take hard work and consistency to do well in the program, and a practice routine of 10 or 15 minutes, 3-4 times a week. This goal is easily achievable, but certainly a commitment that should be discussed with your child.

The oboe although not listed on the option sheet, is a great choice that students have found success, but because the instrument can be a bit more challenging and supplies can be costly (reeds in particular). We ask that students' first study with a private teacher to be sure this is a good fit for them and then will be integrated into the school lesson schedule. Concerning percussion instruments, students must have at least 2 years of piano experience in order to be comfortable on both pitched and non-pitched instruments.

Families are asked to rent instruments beginning in September from a reputable store of your choice. If you already own an instrument, please make sure it is clean and in top working condition. If you decide to purchase an instrument through the internet, please contact me with regards to instrument quality.

Attached is a sheet explaining instrumental choices. It is important that students take the time to research the instrument they are interested in and are excited about their choice. Please have the attached form filled out and returned by the date given. I look forward to next year and the introduction of instrumental music for your child.

Thank you,



Amanda Zlotkin

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Instrumental Music  
azlotkin@ridgewood.k12.nj.us

**Please e-mail me if you are interested in Summer Music Academy in Ridgewood,  
it is a great way to get a head start for the school year!  
Have a wonderful summer!**