Hello River Valley 5th Grade Families,

My name is Josh Neff and I'm the Director of Bands at River Valley Local Schools. I'm so excited to share information with you about the River Valley Band! This week your student had the chance to explore a variety of instruments with Mrs. Turner during their music class, and I hope they're as excited as I am to get started.

Below is some information to give you and your student a better idea of what to expect from being in the band. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. You can email me at jneff@rvk12.org or call the school at (740) 725-5800. I'm always happy to help!

Getting an Instrument

We will be hosting an **Instrument Rental/Information Night** on **Wednesday, September 9th at 6:00 p.m.** in the High School Band Room. This event is a great opportunity for you to ask questions, meet me, and get everything you need to start the school year off on the right foot.

If you can't make it to this meeting, don't worry! Here are some other options for getting an instrument:

- **Rent-to-Own through Metronome Music:** This is a fantastic option to get a brand-new instrument that you know will work properly.
- **Use a Family Instrument:** If you have an instrument at home collecting dust, we can put it to good use! I'm happy to take a look at it and recommend any repairs that might be needed.
- **Use a School-Owned Instrument:** The school has a limited selection of instruments for students to use. While these are a great way to get started, please be aware that they've been used for many years and may not be in the best condition. It's recommended to get an instrument that can last your student for their entire time in the band program.

Class Schedule and Expectations

We meet for 5th-grade band during your student's elective period. We rotate on a schedule with the orchestra so that students can experience both electives. We'll send out a new schedule each month to the elementary schools so your student always knows where to go.

The following table shows what a typical week for the band would look like.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Heritage	Band	Orchestra	Band	Orchestra	Alternating
Liberty	Orchestra	Band	Orchestra	Band	Alternating

Students are expected to be at band on any day that the schedule shows a band rehearsal.

Band and Other Activities

Being in the band doesn't mean your student has to miss out on other activities. Many of our students are also involved in sports like football, basketball, and volleyball, as well as extracurriculars like choir, 4-H, and e-sports. We work with coaches and other program directors to make sure students can be well-rounded and participate in everything they want to experience.

I highly encourage every student to try band, especially in 5th and 6th grades while most of our activities are during the school day.

Concerts

The 5th-grade band will perform in two concerts each year, one before the winter break and one before the end of the school year. Attendance is mandatory for all concerts since they are the culmination of all the hard work your students put in throughout the year. For a typical concert, students are asked to wear all-black formal clothes.

Mark your calendars! Our concert dates are set:

- **Winter Elementary Band/Orchestra Concert:** Monday, December 14th at 6:00 p.m.
- **Spring Elementary Band/Orchestra Concert:** TBD

All concerts will be held in the High School Auditorium.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out. I'm so excited to see the new group of band members come in this year, and I can't wait to see your students grow and succeed!