

May 26, 2020

Dear Fourth Grade Parents/Guardians:

I hope this letter finds you and your family in good health and spirits. It is this time of year that I normally would begin to meet directly with your 4<sup>th</sup> grade children to invite her/him to participate in our 5<sup>th</sup> grade band program and to go over possible band instrument choices for 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Since I will not have the opportunity to meet with them face-to-face and have them try different instruments out, instrument assignments will occur without students trying them. It is important that I take into account 2 aspects of the selection process: your child's interest and the need for a balanced band. You and your child will select one instrument from each of three categories. I will select one of those three instruments to assign to your child. For your reference, here are the categories:

Category 1: Clarinet, Trumpet, French Horn

Category 2: Oboe, Alto Saxophone, Percussion (Bells & Drums), Tuba

Category 3: Trombone, Baritone (Euphonium), Flute

Please use the following links to get to know the program and instruments in more detail:

[Mr. Finch's Website](#) & [Dallas Symphony Orchestra](#) & [Band Instrument Introduction Lessons](#)

The instruments you select will not be ranked in any order. This is in line with years past. All students will get assigned one of their three choices.

I would like all students, with their parents, to please fill out the following form by Friday June 5<sup>th</sup> 2020:

[Lenape Band and Instrument Selection Form](#)

If your child does not wish to participate in the Lenape Band program, be sure to click "No" for response #4. The form will prompt you to complete the instrument selection, but it will be disregarded.

Band is a wonderful opportunity for your child to be a part of the growing Music Department of the New Paltz Central School District. Our elementary music program plants the seeds for future middle and high school activities such as the Jazz Band, Marching Band, the Musical, All-County Band and more.

As a beginning band student, your child will have the opportunity to perform in a "standing room only" concert. They will also have a small group lesson once each week and full band rehearsals starting in January, assuming that schools have resumed normal scheduling. Playing an instrument creates an environment to meet new friends, to have fun and to build a base for future musical enjoyment.

I'm very excited to meet and start your children on the wonderful journey of playing an instrument. If you have questions please reach out via email: [dfinch@newpaltz.k12.ny.us](mailto:dfinch@newpaltz.k12.ny.us). Due to current circumstances, please be patient in anticipating my response.

Regards,

*David Finch*

David Finch  
Lenape Elementary Band Director