



Dear Future Hudsonville 6th Grade Band Parents and Students,

Thank you for you and your student's interest in becoming a percussionist in the Hudsonville Band program! Throughout the history of the program, our percussionists tend to become the most involved and commit to participating in band through high school. Many develop skills in the areas of leadership and confidence that propel their success throughout and after their time in our programs.

### **Requirements**

Percussion is the most involved section of the band ensemble, drawing extended skills in the areas of pitch, rhythm, control and technique. In addition, percussionists must be organized, responsible, and able to have patience and self control with the freedom they have in the back of the ensemble. Being a percussionist includes learning mallet keyboard instruments, various drums, and auxiliary instruments. Because of these factors, students are highly encouraged to possess two full years of piano lessons prior to the start of school to have the best experience and most success in percussion. Students that have not done so will have to dedicate extra time and effort to navigating the mallet keyboard in addition to drums and auxiliary instruments.

Students are expected to become well rounded percussionists, learning mallets, drums, and auxiliary instruments. Drum set will be available starting in 7th grade.

### **Fitting Process**

Percussion fittings will be held during the instrument fitting time on February 4 and 5 when 5th grade students visit RMS.

Your student will complete:

- A rhythmic fitting on the snare drum
- A melodic fitting on the mallets

*After successful completion of the audition, entrance to the program will be offered to students who are best fit for the section.* Other factors such as responsibility and willingness to take feedback in the learning process will be taken into consideration as they are essential skills for a successful percussionist. As a band director I truly want what is best for each student and will help them find where they will be most successful in our program.

Please feel free to reach out to us via email or phone with additional questions or concerns! Best wishes and we are excited to welcome your student into the Hudsonville Band Program!

Mrs. Loren Koella  
Riley Street Middle School Bands  
[lkoella@hpseagles.net](mailto:lkoella@hpseagles.net)  
616-896-1920 x4309