

## **CENTRAL BUCKS SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Leading the Way

The Central Bucks Schools will provide all students with the academic and problem-solving skills

Essential for personal development, responsible citizenship, and life-long learning

 September, 2018

**Dear Parents of students interested in learning snare drum,**

It is fantastic to see so many students interested in learning to play musical instruments! Since battery percussion, (snare drum) students need to learn multiple performance skills to accommodate the wide variety of instruments that need to be played in the percussion family *besides* the snare drum, they will need to participate in instruction in both fifth and sixth grades. **Therefore, beginning percussion is not available to sixth graders.**

A well-balanced band provides the best environment for a successful musical experience for students, even at the elementary level. Looking ahead, since multiple elementary schools feed into each middle school, the presence of too many percussionists in the seventh-grade band program creates a negative impact, both for the percussionists and for the entire band. Most often, only a few percussionists are required to play in each performed piece at the same time. This limits quality performance opportunities for your child. That is why the elementary band program needs to limit the number of students who can choose to play snare drum.

In addition to demonstrating good **hand-eye coordination** and an ability to work as a team member, the beginning percussionist must have **a strong sense of rhythm and the ability to keep a steady beat.** To determine which students are best suited for the percussion family, **an evaluation is given to each student who is interested in playing percussion instruments.**  As explained in all instrumental demonstrations, all potential percussion students will be asked to choose a band or string instrument as their second choice if it is determined that they are not well-suited to play percussion instruments. In this case, parents will be contacted and advised what instrument(s) the band teacher feels would best suit their child. Ultimately, the goal is for your child to be successful.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding in this situation. Your support and help are much appreciated. As always, feel free to contact your band director at school with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

**Central Bucks School District Elementary Music Teachers**