Dear New Hawk Families,

Welcome! My name is Dr. Christie Blute, and I am the band and orchestra director at The Gregory School. I have been teaching band and orchestra for 29 years, and I have been a Gregory School parent for the past nine years. I can say with full confidence that your child is going to love being at The Gregory School!

I'm hoping that many of you are excited about the possibility of learning a new instrument or continuing an instrument you already play. I wanted to take a moment to explain the band and orchestra classes that are offered at school. The most important thing you need to know is that **students don't have to have any experience on an instrument or any music reading abilities to be a part of the beginning programs**. They don't even need to know what instrument they would like to play!

I will reach out to all students registered for beginning band and orchestra to schedule a time before school starts for them to come and try as many instruments as they would like to find the best fit for them. If your child is registering for the beginning band, please indicate on your registration form whether you would prefer a zero hour class (2 days a week from 7:30 to 8:40), or a regular block during the school day.

If your child already plays an instrument, that is fantastic! High schoolers will automatically register for advanced band or advanced orchestra. Middle schoolers can register for intermediate band or orchestra, or schedule a time to come in and play for me to see if they are ready for the top group. Please feel free to reach out to me at any time with any questions, and I will be happy to answer them for you. I look forward to meeting you all and working together to create wonderful musical experiences with your children!

Dr. Christie Blute
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	Beginning band	Beginning Orchestra	Intermediate Band	Intermediate Orchestra	Advanced band	Advanced Orchestra
Instrument Choices	Flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, Percussion Bassoon tuba	Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass	Flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, percussion, Bassoon tuba	Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass	Flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, percussion, bassoon tuba	Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass
Meeting time	Zero hour	During the school day	During the school day	During the school day	Zero hour	During the school day
Experience Needed	No experience	No experience	1+ years on instrument	1+ years on instrument	Upper School or by audition	Upper school or by audition