Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are excited to announce that fifth grade band will be provided to our students again this school year. We are even more excited to introduce you to Ms. Ashley Blankenship. Ms. Blankenship currently teaches music to our first-grade students. Ashley’s passion for music education was sparked in middle school. She pursued a bachelor’s in music education from Troy University in Troy, Alabama. Upon graduation she moved to Colorado to begin her teaching career. She has an instrumental background as a clarinet player, and has traveled extensively across the southeast performing with a premier ensemble. Ms. Blankenship is a wonderful addition to our Garfield staff, and we are thrilled that she will be using her expertise to teach our students.

We will have an instrument exploration night on **Wednesday September 25th from 5:00-6:30 pm**. The purpose of this night is to provide students with the opportunity to try a variety of instruments prior to instrument selection. All Garfield fifth graders are welcome! Even if you only think you may just be interested, come give the instruments a try! Instruments will be available for rental. Scholarship opportunities will be available on a first come basis.

Band meeting dates will be Mondays and Thursdays from 3:30-4:15. Band will begin on October 3, 2019 and end on March 12, 2020. Students will perform a concert upon completion. Please complete the bottom portion of this letter and return to Ms. Bess by September 25th.

My Student ____________
is interested in participating in band.

Parent Name: ________________________________

Phone Number: ________________________________

Email Address: ________________________________

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Laura Bess [laura.bess@thompsonschools.org](mailto:laura.bess@thompsonschools.org) or Ms. Ashley Blankenship [ashley.blankenship@thompsonschools.org](mailto:ashley.blankenship@thompsonschools.org).

Thank you!
Ms. Bess and Ms. Blankenship