

GRANT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

"Developing today's learners to be tomorrow's leaders."

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www.grantps.net

July 14, 2016

Dear Grant Band students and parents,

Yesterday morning the district was caught off guard when Mr. Buikema submitted his letter of resignation from all duties at Grant Public Schools. Mr. Buikema and I had a good conversation as he shared his reasoning for making such a surprising decision at this time of the year. By the end of our conversation, I was convinced he has put a great deal of thought and time into this difficult decision. I know he struggled with leaving the Grant family, and all the students and parents he cares for deeply. Even though I am still in shock and saddened by this situation, as a husband and father, I understand and respect his decision. I know we all wish him and the rest of the Buikema family all the best as they move into the next chapter of their lives.

As we move forward with our search for a new director, I give you my word, we will seek out the best possible candidate to lead our instrumental band program. We are committed to your development as student-musicians and to this community to continue and strengthen the band program. To be clear, we are planning on all of the summer programs and fall competition season continuing as scheduled, and hope you are committed to this plan as well. Please stay in contact with the Band Boosters for the pre-camp and band camp information, as we are working with the boosters to ensure a smooth transition and successful season.

This is an unfortunate situation as we are losing a good person, however, this will not prevent you or the band program from successfully completing the 2016-17 season and school year. We all know that we have curveballs thrown at us, which are, in fact, just life lessons popping up when we least expect them. The key to overcoming the challenges that are typically connected to the life lesson is to embrace the changes. By doing this you will grow and develop new skills through these experiences, which will allow you to be even more successful in life.

Go Tigers!!

Sincerely,



Jonathan M. Whan
Superintendent

Home of the Tigers

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