

March 15, 2010

Dear Band Students & Parents,

It is hard to believe that we're only weeks before the end of this school year and the culmination of all we've worked on for our Spring Band Concert. The event will take place the afternoon of Sunday, May 2, 2010, in the Miller Performing Arts Center. To prepare for this performance, we have a total of 10 after-school rehearsals in the St. Peter Band Room on the ground floor of the West addition for the various bands.

The March and April calendars of rehearsals, as well as the permission slips allowing attendance were sent home two weeks ago. Both pages are two-sided and consequently both sides should be filled-out and returned. If they have been misplaced, you can download new copies from the band section of the Immaculate Conception School website. Each rehearsal runs from 3:00 to 4:45 (15 minutes longer in order to deal with traffic problems) with busses bringing the Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph Cathedral Schools' students to St. Peter for practices. All parents or guardians are responsible retrieving their children immediately at the end.

The busses that transport the students are paid for by the Helias/Interparish Band Boosters, so please make sure your family dues have been paid. Should there be any discipline problems on the ride over, the students involved will no longer have the privilege of the service without their parents' supervision. The same goes for acting-out during the rehearsal itself. Please remember that all rehearsals and performances are for a letter grade and only a signed, legitimate note from a parent will excuse the child's absence. I do realize that there are several other events requiring after-school practices, but please try to balance which ones you choose to attend.

In general, I am very pleased with the improvement I see in working with the students. There are, however, some who could stand to put in more practice time at home in order to keep up with the rest, or could simply be more focused on the task at hand during class. Parents: Start keeping track of how often you hear your children practicing their instruments, or even when the last time it was that you have actually seen the instruments brought home... All musicians are important to the group, and if they are not holding their own, it can bring the whole ensemble down. I am looking forward to a wonderful performance with your children on May 2!

Thank you all for your continued cooperation and support of the Interparish Grade School Band program. Without it, we could not exist!

Sincerely yours,

Bruce G. Connor, IPB Director
635-2732 after 5:00pm