

April 20, 2010

Dear Parents of Future Fifth Grade Students,

This is to inform you of a unique opportunity available to few Catholic school students in our diocese. Next year, as a fifth grade student at Immaculate Conception, St. Joseph Cathedral or St. Peter Grade Schools, your child will have the opportunity to become a member of the Interparish Grade School Band. I do realize that the fourth grade parents at St. Peter have already received and returned a slip asking them to state whether or not their children will be joining band next year. This was mainly for placement of the 6th, 7th & 8th grade students into groups, simplifying the scheduling. You still have the ability to say "yea or nay" to this decision.

This year the Interparish Grade School Band boasts a membership of approximately 100 fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grade students from the three schools. They have marched in both the Helias Homecoming and J.C. Christmas Parades, performed during Music Enrichment Day, our annual Christmas and Spring Concerts and participated in numerous pep assemblies. Several of the Advanced Band members auditioned and performed with the All-District Junior High Honor Bands in Waynesville.

I would now like to invite your family to attend our annual Spring Concert scheduled for 2:00pm on Sunday, May 2 at the Miller Performing Arts Center on the corner of Miller and Madison Streets. The concert should last about 1½ hours and feature each grade level's band as well as the Jazz Band.

In the few weeks after our concert, I will be inviting the fourth graders to come to the band rooms and tryout various instruments that they may be interested in playing. I will then have them list their first and second choices. From these lists I can assign each student an instrument, accounting for individual aptitude and a balanced ensemble among the three schools. Usually better than 95% of the students get their first choice.

I realize that many of you may have some questions concerning the Interparish Grade School Band program. I plan to answer those queries in an upcoming letter to go home following the concert. However, should you have some you wish resolved sooner, you are welcome to call me at 635-2732 (Capital Music) between 5:00 and 6:00pm week nights, or email me at bconnor@icangels.com. Please take the time to fill-out and return the attached slip to me. It does not obligate your child in any way, but gives me a head start at gathering information (this is separate from the one the St. Peter students have already returned). Thank you and hope to see you at the concert!

Musically yours,

Bruce G. Connor
I.P.B. Director