

August 16, 2009

Dear Band Parents & Students,

We are now starting our first week of school and the Interparish Grade School Band students will be settling into their daily routines. I would like to welcome back the returning families as well as the new fifth graders and upper class students. There is quite a bit of information I must give all of you so I hope that you can sit down and read this letter together.

The rules of my classroom are very simple: Respect yourself, respect your classmates and respect your teachers and staff. By following these guidelines, nothing more should have to be said. Each of the schools (Immaculate Conception, St. Joseph Cathedral and St. Peter) has its own discipline policy, but each one comes down to R-E-S-P-E-C-T.

Each grade level of band is expected to have a particular band book to use throughout the year. Fifth graders use the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Band Method, part 1 (Blue Book), sixth graders use part 2 (Red Book) of that same series and 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders use the Scale Etudes Book for both years. All of these books may be purchased from the local music stores such as Capital Music at 213 East Miller for under \$10.00 each, tax included. This is also one of the places you can acquire an instrument if you still do not have one...

Although I expect all band members to practice at home regularly, the 5<sup>th</sup> graders are required to record their times in the front of the book as part of their grade. Fifteen to twenty minutes per night should be sufficient in order to make the progress expected. I realize that there may be nights when other homework may out-rank this, but please do your best to average 80-100 minutes per week.

We actually have a relatively short time to prepare for our first performance! The Annual Helias/Interparish Band Booster BBQ is scheduled for Sunday, September 13 at Helias High School. The students will meet in the Helias band room by 4:00pm (tentatively) for a rehearsal while the parents attend a short informational meeting in the cafeteria. Although only the high school and 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades will be performing, the fifth graders and their families are also urged to attend in order to fill-out some paperwork and enjoy the performances. The attendance of this event is also part of your child's grade. If you have a major conflict with this performance, I must have a signed note from a parent.

Other Future Performances:

Tues. & Wed., Oct. 20 & 21 – Diocesan Music Enrichment Days (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> gr.)  
Friday, October 23 – Helias Homecoming Parade (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> gr. & some 6<sup>th</sup> gr.)  
Saturday, December 5 – J.C. Christmas Parade (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> gr.)  
Wednesday, December 9 – I.P.B. Christmas Concert (5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> gr.)  
Sunday, May 2 – I.P.B. Spring Concert (5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> gr.).

In addition, each school's band may also perform at pep assemblies and Masses. I will be sending home additional information as we draw closer to all major events, and will be working on entering information on the St. Peter School website and hope to have links from the other two schools' websites to guide you there. If you have any questions or comments, you can reach me Monday through Friday at 635-2732 (Capital Music) from 5:00pm to 7:00pm, or email me at bconnor@icangels.com. I am looking forward to a very fulfilling and productive year with all of you. Thank you for your support of the Interparish Grade School Bands!

Sincerely,

Bruce G. Connor  
IPB Director