

August 15, 2010

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 21st Century Band Method, part 1 (Blue Book), sixth graders use part 2 (Red Book) of that same series and 7th & 8th 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 5th 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.

In past years, the Helias/Interparish Band Boosters have hosted a barbecue, usually on the afternoon of the second Sunday in September. As of the date of this letter, the event has not yet been scheduled. A brief informational meeting is held for the parents, and paperwork is completed concerning upcoming rehearsals and performances. This is followed by a concert of the grade school and high school groups before the meal is served. Should it happen that this gathering not come about, I will send all pertinent information home with the band students.

Other Future Performances:

Thursday, October 7 – Helias Homecoming Parade (7th & 8th gr. & some 6th gr.)
Saturday, December 4 – J.C. Christmas Parade (6th, 7th & 8th gr.)
Wednesday, December 15 – I.P.B. Christmas Concert (5th, 6th, 7th & 8th gr.)
Tuesday, May 3 – I.P.B. Spring Concert (5th, 6th, 7th & 8th 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 each of the three schools' websites. If you have any questions or comments, you can reach me Monday through Friday at 635-2732 (Capital Music) from 4:00pm to 6:00pm, or email me at bconnor@icangels.com, bconnor@stpeterjc.org or bruce.connor@cathedralschooljc.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