

January 15, 2010

Dear 5th Grade Band Members and Parents:

I hope this letter finds you staying warm during the cold winter months! It is now time – believe it or not – to start reserving dates on your calendars for the spring band activities.

We will have rehearsals before school (8:10-8:45) as we did for the winter concert. This means parents will need to provide transportation for their children on the following Tuesday and Thursday mornings:

Tues, Mar 2 – WOODWIND players only (all flutes, oboes, clarinets, and saxes)

Thur, Mar 4 – BRASS players only (all trumpets, French Horns, trombones, baritones, and tubas)

Tues, Mar 9 – WOODWINDS only

Thur, Mar 11 – BRASSES only

Tues, Mar 16 – WOODWINDS only

Thur, Mar 18 – BRASSES only

Tues, Mar 23 – WOODWINDS only

Thur, Mar 25 – BRASSES only

Tues, Mar 30 – ENTIRE BAND (Woodwinds, brasses, and percussion)

Thurs, Apr 1 – NO PRACTICE (school closed for Easter vacation)

Tues, Apr 6 – Entire Band

Thur, Apr 8 – Entire Band

Tues, Apr 13 – Entire Band

Thur, Apr 15 – Entire Band

Tue, Apr 20 – Entire Band

Thur, Apr 22 – NO PRACTICE (Mr. Hilborn will be away at a conference)

Tue, Apr 27 – Entire Band

Thur, Apr 29 – Entire Band

Tue, May 4 – Entire Band

Thur, May 6 – NO PRACTICE (Mr. Hilborn will not be in school)

Tue, May 11 – Entire Band

Thur, May 13 – Entire Band

Tue, May 18 – Entire Band

Thur, May 20 – Entire Band

Tue, May 25 – Entire Band

Thur, May 27 – Entire Band

Tue, June 1 – Entire Band

Thur, June 3 – Entire Band

THURSDAY, JUNE 3, is the evening performance of our ZEPHYR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SPRING CONCERT! All band members need to be present for this event. More details will be sent home to you at a later date regarding the exact reporting time for students, dress, etc... For now, please just reserve this date on your family calendars for the concert! I'm certain that after the phenomenal performance by our 5th grade band at the Winter Concert, the Spring Concert is bound to be just as big of a hit!

Additionally, PLEASE read the schedule above carefully and be sure you know when your child is to be at before-school band practices. For the most part, during the month of March, we will be having JUST THE WOODWINDS practice on Tuesday mornings, while the BRASSES will practice on Thursday mornings. The first FULL BAND PRACTICE for ALL STUDENTS (including percussion) is Tuesday morning, March 30.

An additional reminder – I know the weather in March can still be a bit tricky and unpredictable. If we have a two hour delay on the morning of a band practice, then that practice is CANCELLED and it WILL NOT be made-up.

Next, since our students have improved tremendously since September, I must tell you a bit about the music we will be performing. First, you should know that I arranged and wrote the music we played in December on my computer here at school. It was easy for me to provide students with extra copies of the music if they forgot theirs, left it in the classroom, or lost it. However, this WILL NOT be the case for the spring concert music. The music we will be performing will be purchased from a music store by the school district AND THEREFORE must be returned IN GOOD CONDITION to me at the end of the year, just like your child must return his/her math book to his/her math teacher. Anyone who loses their music will be charged for its replacement – please speak carefully to your children about this! I will speak to them about this as well.

Again, I will be looking for parent volunteers who are able to come in to school early in the morning (about 7:45 or so) and help monitor the front doors. If you can do this, please let me know as soon as possible.

I am certain special musical opportunities will arise for our students in the spring other than the Spring Concert. I will inform you of these events with as much advance notice as possible.

Should you have any questions in this matter, PLEASE do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email! I will do my best to answer all your questions.

After the great winter concert season we had, I can hardly wait to begin band again with the 5th graders – they were so much fun to work with!

Thank you for your help, cooperation, and understanding in this matter. Additionally, I commend you for supporting your child in his/her study of music here in the Whitehall Schools.

Respectfully,

L. Rick Hilborn
Instrumental Music Teacher
Zephyr Elementary School

