



Season of Mercy

Newsletter #2

October 2, 2009

Time to Perform!

Let's play some fun music and show our community how great the band is at SKDS! The following performances are not required, but are fun extra performance opportunities available to all band students. We'd like to get as many students as possible at each event! Students in grades 6-8 are required to do one extra performance each quarter, either for the community, Mass, or for family members; this is a great way to fulfill this requirement and have some fun at the same time. Students who wish to play at these events should choose Christmas and Holiday songs, or a favorite song. Play a solo or in small ensembles (up to four people).



Rechek's Holiday Open House

Saturday, November 7, 2009
Approximately 9:30-10:00 AM

The Vineyard CoffeeHouse

Friday, November 13
7:00 – 7:30 PM

The Charleston House

Tuesday, December 15
3:45-4:30 PM

If you are interested, please return the attached sheet to Mrs. Battenberg by October 12.

5 Reasons to Check Out the SKDS Bands Website!

1. Get information on upcoming performances
2. Download forms handed out in band
3. See the cute picture of a kitty in a tuba (and of band kids, too!)
4. Hear your band student (as soon as they record - ask him/her about it!)
5. Visit the Music Links-Get free Christmas music! (see the link for Music Ed Magic on the Student page)

SMARTMUSIC

Is the best invention since sliced bread

I know I'm biased as a band teacher, but this is the best new practice tool to come out since I was tootin' on the clarinet back in the 80s. It's a great way to keep kids interested and motivated to practice!

SmartMusic is an internet-based accompaniment program for music students. Instantly get access to five times the music you already have— you can click on any of 7 method books (including all the ones we use), and many of the band songs we play in concerts.

- The music shows up on the computer screen along with a green

- cursor to show you where you are
- It can be used with any instrument— families with multiple students can switch to the notes for each instrument
- You can use it to just listen to songs to see how they sound before you practice them
- You can speed up or slow down the music
- You can click on a note to see the fingering
- The program can listen to you and assess your playing- green notes were right and red notes were wrong (continued)

Jazz Band

Schedule

See back for more information

October 20

Open rehearsal
3:15-4:15 PM

November 4,5,6

Auditions
(Before and After School)

November 17

Regular Rehearsals begin



Jazz Band Open Rehearsal October 20

Regular Jazz Band rehearsals start in November

WHO?

Students in grades 6-8 on any instrument with **above average performance skills**, and with **well-established practice routines** at home are eligible for SKDS Jazz Band. This is a great way to challenge kids who find regular band music too easy. It's a lot of fun and very musically rewarding - but does require a great attitude and extra dedication on the part of each band student.



WHEN?

We will have an **open rehearsal** for all interested students on October 20 from 3:20 to 4:15. **All interested students** should attend this rehearsal. We will introduce jazz music and rhythms, and learn what being in Jazz Band is all about. At the end of this rehearsal, audition materials will be given. Students will sign up for audition times to be held the week of Nov 1. Audition times will mostly be before and after school, and during recess, and will be 5 minutes long.

Rehearsals will begin in mid-November on Tuesdays from 3:20 to 4:30. Please plan on picking your child up in the rear parking lot by 4:20. Students will be expected to take turns bringing a snack to rehearsal. The Jazz Band Schedule is always in the Band Newsletter, and will be posted on the Band Website.

WHEN DOES JAZZ ENSEMBLE PERFORM?

We will spend the first bunch of rehearsals learning how to swing and read jazz rhythms. The second half of the year we will have performances at SKDS Jazz Fest (April 17), Jazz Fest at Beaver Dam High School (April 30), and we will perform a song or two at the Spring Band Concert (April 22). Additional performance might include the Pancake Breakfast, and at a local retirement home. Jazz Band performances are more casual than band concerts, and are always enjoyable for your friends and family— make sure to invite them!

SmartMusic cont.

- There is a built in tuner and metronome
- You can record your own songs with no accompaniment
- You can save the recording as a digital file to burn to a CD or email to family or friends

SmartMusic can be bought online and is a yearly subscription. It is really a great deal. Consider this: a book of Disney Songs, or Star Wars songs, costs \$14.95 and is usually about 8 songs; SmartMusic gives students instant access to seven method books, each with 100+ short songs. Plus, it's fun to record yourself and see how many notes you got right. Not only that, but tuners and metronomes are at least \$10-20 each! At \$30, it's a great buy.

Students with Essential Elements 2000 Book 1 have a free version of SmartMusic that contains songs 1-99 in that book. This is a great way to find out about and use SmartMusic before actually purchasing the subscription, and this version does not require internet access.

For more information, go to www.SmartMusic.com, or to the SKDS bands website: skds.org>parents>click on link.

