

2011-2012 ST. HUBERT SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the St. Hubert School Band Program! I am honored to begin my 13th year at St. Hubert School as your Director of Bands. I sincerely thank all current and past band parents for their immense support of this program. As always, I welcome your valuable input, suggestions, and feedback about how I can continue to serve this school and your children.

In the book, The Arts and the Creation of Mind, Pulitzer Prize winning author Elliot Eisner writes, "To be able to create a form of experience that can be regarded as aesthetic requires a mind that animates our imaginative experience, promotes our ability to feel and communicate, heightens ones consciousness and beautifies the world around us."

This is the band experience I hope to give your children every day!

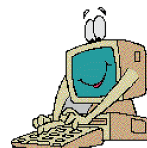
Mrs. Amy Meenk

Director of Bands

612 384-6003 ext 328

amy.meenk@sthubert.org email is the best way to contact me.

The Mission of St. Hubert School is to teach as Jesus did within the context of the teachings of the Catholic Church. As such, our mission is to educate the whole child. In a Kindergarten through 8th grade Catholic setting, teachers, students, staff and parents work together to build an all-inclusive educational and a spiritual foundation that will last a lifetime.



COMMUNICATION

A key element to a successful band program is good communication. E-mails will be used for providing updates about assignments, tests, concert dates, and other information about the band program. Parent email groups are created for each band and email addresses will remain hidden for privacy when information is distributed.

The SHS Band program also has its own section on the SHS website. The website has valuable information regarding participation in the band and provides a convenient resource for you and your child. Information about the band can also be found on Sycamore

ABILITY-GROUPED BANDS

St. Hubert School has three ability-grouped bands, Varsity Band, Concert Band, and Wind Ensemble. Ability grouping allows every young musician the freedom to grow at his/her own pace on the instrument. All first year, beginning students perform in the Varsity Band while playing out of the Yamaha Advantage Book One lesson book during band and lessons. After the first year, all beginning students advance up to the Concert Band. Most will have finished lesson book one and move into the Yamaha Advantage Book Two.

Further advancement is dependent upon when the student completes lesson book two, demonstrating the skills learned in the second book, thus preparing him/her for the musical challenges encountered in the advanced band called the Wind Ensemble. For students to progress to Wind Ensemble they must show understanding, through performance, of all the concepts presented in lesson book 2 (for example, 3/8 time, 6/8 time, cut time, scales etc.) Every exercise does not need to be assigned and passed if a student shows understanding and can successfully perform a concept. The lesson book's design of music concepts and technical skills ensures continual progression and musical growth while allowing the director the ability to select appropriate skill-level band literature for each ensemble. *Students have the opportunity for advancement twice each school year, at the beginning of school year and after the Christmas Concert.*

"Band prepares you for life" ~director and composer, Richard Saucedo

"No Music, No Life. Know Music, Know Life." ~anonymous

VARSITY BAND

- ❖ Beginning Band- 4th Grade students
- ❖ Instrumentation- flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, trumpet, french horn, baritone, trombone, percussion.
- ❖ Rehearses twice per week during the school day
- ❖ Method Book: The Yamaha Advantage Book One Publisher: Carl Fischer. (may be purchased at local music store)
- ❖ Performances- required participation
 - Christmas Concert- Thursday, December 15th; 6:30 pm at Westwood Community Church. Students arrive at 5:45 PM
 - Spring Concert- Thursday, May 24th; 6:30 pm at Westwood Community Church. Students arrive at 5:45 PM
- ❖ Grading: Skills evaluated on a progressive scale with written comments:
 - E= Experiencing challenges in meeting grade level expectations
 - V= Developing skills to meet grade level expectation
 - M=Meeting grade level expectation
 - P= Performing above grade level expectations

CONCERT BAND

- ❖ Intermediate Band- 5th through 7th grade students
- ❖ Instrumentation- flute, oboe, clarinet, bass clarinet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, trumpet, french horn, baritone, trombone, percussion.
- ❖ Rehearses Monday & Tuesday 8:00-8:50 AM
- ❖ Method Book: The Yamaha Advantage Book Two Publisher: Carl Fischer. (may be purchased at local music store)
- ❖ Performances- required participation
 - Christmas Concert- Thursday, December 15th; 6:30 pm at Westwood Community Church. Students arrive at 5:45 PM
 - Spring Concert- Thursday, May 24th; 6:30 pm at Westwood Community Church. Students arrive at 5:45 PM.
- ❖ Band grades are included in GPA.

WIND ENSEMBLE

- ❖ Advanced Band - 6th through 8th grade students
- ❖ Instrumentation- flute, oboe, clarinet, bass clarinet, bassoon, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, trumpet, french horn, baritone, trombone, percussion.
- ❖ Rehearses Thursday & Friday 8:00-8:50 AM
- ❖ Method Book in rehearsals: The Yamaha Advantage Book Two Publisher: Carl Fischer. (may be purchased at local music store)
- ❖ Method Book in lessons: Essential Technique 2000 Publisher: Hal Leonard; Exception: **Flute players** use Studies and Melodious Etudes for Flute - Level II – Intermediate. By Douglas Steensland. Publisher: Alfred
- ❖ Performances- required participation
 - Christmas Concert: Thursday, December 15th; 6:30 pm at Westwood Community Church. Students arrive at 5:45 PM
 - MMEA Band Festival- Friday in April TBA, day event only, no evening performance
 - Spring Concert- Thursday, May 24th; 6:30 pm at Westwood Community Church. Students arrive at 5:45 PM.
- ❖ Band grades are included in GPA.

BAND IS, in fact, a “REAL CLASS”... (rehearsals/participation)

"The arts are recognized as a core subject in the Goals 2000: Educate America Act approved by both houses of Congress in 1994." - National Education Goals Panel. To clarify, band is a curricular subject in schools, just like math, science and language arts. St. Hubert School recognizes **Varsity Band, Concert Band and Wind Ensemble as curricular subjects and full year commitments.** Students in Concert Band and Wind Ensemble earn a letter grade, and the grade counts toward the G.P.A. Morning rehearsals are the *ONLY* time in which students are able to rehearse music with *every* member of the band, not just their own instrument group. This rehearsal (class time) is not only important; it is necessary, for adequate concert performance preparation. For this reason, morning band rehearsals make up a large part of the total band grade. Regular participation is expected.

If your child is feeling “under the weather,” but is still going to attend school, then he/she should participate in morning band rehearsals that day. If your child feels unable to perform on the instrument to the fullest of his/her abilities due to a stuffy nose/sore throat, for example, he/she can still gain much from the rehearsal even without playing the instrument. Song introductions, cross-curricular connections, and music-theory instruction are embedded in every rehearsal. By participating in rehearsals, even if only to listen and verbally participate, your child will learn *about* the music, share in class discussions, and most importantly, discover how his/her part fits with the rest of the band.

“To be on time is to be late,” something my high school band director told me....

Each student has the responsibility of arriving for ***no later than 7:50 A.M*** for band rehearsals. This arrival time allows for each student to set-up and adequately warm-up on his/her instrument, so that he/she is ready to begin rehearsal promptly at 8:00 A.M.



A calendar of rehearsals can be found on the SHS website, on Sycamore, and is posted in the rehearsal room. Regular participation expected. It is not only important; it is necessary in adequately preparing for concerts and/or festivals.

How do I EARN my grade in Concert Band & Wind Ensemble?

Rehearsals: approximately 57% of total points earned in a trimester

Private Lessons: approx. 18 % of total points earned in a trimester

Practice Time (homework for band): approx. 8% of total points earned in a trimester

Performances: approx. 14% of total points earned in a trimester

Materials: approx. 3% of total points earned in a trimester

REHEARSALS

- Approximately 57% of the total points earned in a trimester
- 40 points may be earned when he/she participates in each rehearsal.
- Arriving on time, individual behavior and individual effort greatly affect individual progress and the development of the entire group. Therefore, tardiness, observation of lack of effort and/or disruptive behavior in class may lower points earned at a rehearsal.
 - 1st Trimester # of rehearsals: Concert Band -21; Wind Ensemble-21.
 - 2nd Trimester # of rehearsals: Concert Band- 22; Wind Ensemble- 23.
 - 3rd Trimester # of rehearsals: Concert Band-20; Wind Ensemble- 17

“Empathy, compassion, self-awareness, and cooperation are best learned in an ensemble and not from a book. In other words, it’s not about the test, it’s about the PROCESS, and music’s intrinsic values can only be processed by students when they are present and fully participating.”
~John Weiss. *Music Educators Journal*, vol. 97 no. 4, June 2011.

“People who make music together cannot be enemies, at least while the music lasts.” – composer, Paul Hindemith

INDIVIDUAL LESSONS

- Approximately 18 % of total points earned in a trimester
- 40 points may be earned when he/she participates in each lesson.
- 7 lessons per trimester

“Learning to appreciate music is like riding a bicycle. It is far more satisfying to have ridden yourself than simply to watch others.” ~Nadia Boulanger, Paris Conservatory.

PRACTICE TIME (*the homework for band*)

- Approximately 8% of total points earned in a trimester.
- 40 points earned each month when he/she completes the minimum practice time requirement for a total of 120 points earned in a trimester.
 - Band students are expected to practice **a minimum of 80 minutes each week** and document the practice time on monthly practice time sheets. Parent signatures are required next to each week of practice. Three monthly practice time sheets are due each trimester with indicated due dates for each month. Practice time sheets can be accessed electronically at <http://www.sthubert.org/school/band-choir.php> and on Sycamore if the student loses his/her sheet.
 - Band lessons and rehearsals are not considered individual practice and should not be included in the child's monthly practice time.
 - An individual practice session consists of warm-ups, review of scales, etudes, or pieces you have already learned, your new assignment and then something you really love playing, or just for fun (maybe even make up a piece on your own).
 - **PRACTICE TIPS:**
 - Set goals to try to accomplish in each practice session
 - Be sure you know what the passage should sound like
 - Work on your most challenging spots first
 - Break the music down into small sections
 - **Repeat** the passage many times AFTER you get it right
 - Before you end each practice session, play the entire piece, and enjoy!
 - **SAMPLE PRACTICE SESSION: (20 minutes)**
 - 3-5 minutes: warm ups
 - 5 minutes: review of scales, etudes, or pieces you have already learned
 - 5-7 minutes: work on the most challenging sections
 - 5 minutes: play something you really love playing, or just for fun (maybe even make up a piece on your own)

“My father taught me that the only way you can make good at anything is to practice, and then practice some more.” ~Pete Rose

PERFORMANCES

- **Individual Playing Exam (1st trimester) & Concerts (2nd/3rd Trimester)**
- Approximately 14% of total points earned in a trimester
- 200 points may be earned when he/she completes the exam/concert.
 - **Playing exam:** Playing Exam material is announced within the third week of full band rehearsals. Students have the remaining weeks in the first trimester to prepare and perform exam material for his/her lesson teacher at the scheduled lesson time of his/her choice. Students are assessed using a rubric and may earn up to 200 points. Students may retake the playing exam, at a different lesson time, to try to improve the grade if they choose. Therefore, it's better to take perform the exam earlier in the trimester to allow the option of a retake if the child feels it is necessary.
 - **Concert Performance (Christmas/Spring):** Students may earn up to 200 points for each performance. Students earn points by arriving on time for concert, demonstrating appropriate performance etiquette (posture, concert dress, behavior on stage), demonstrating appropriate audience behavior (i.e. applauding at appropriate times, not talking during performance, keeping feet and hands to one's self, only using the bathroom if it's an emergency etc.), and performing on stage to the best of his/her ability.

"One good thing about music, when it hits you, you feel no pain." -Bob Marley

MATERIALS

- Approximately 3% of total points earned in a trimester
- 10 points may be earned each time materials are checked in band rehearsal. Random checks of necessary materials will be performed throughout the trimester.
- At **EVERY** rehearsal **EVERY** band student needs the following:
 - Instrument *with* case clearly labeled with his/her name
 - **Pencil**- NOT a pen, marker, or other writing utensil. The pencil is used to mark the band music.
 - 3-ring **BINDER** *with* plastic sheet protectors labeled *with* his/her name
 - All band music that has been distributed, neatly stored in the plastic sheet protectors in the band binder
 - Lesson Book
 - Varsity Band- The Yamaha Advantage Book 1
 - Concert Band & Wind Ensemble- The Yamaha Advantage Book 2

“Don’t make excuses, make improvements.”

PRIVATE LESSONS

- ❖ Twenty-minute lesson
- ❖ Each student in Varsity Band, Concert Band and Wind Ensemble receives one scheduled lesson time during the school day within the schedule rotation.
- ❖ Computer-based music programs enhance lessons.
- ❖ 1:1 student-teacher ratio; Students attend lessons in pairs, but perform for teacher individually. While one student is with the teacher the other is utilizing the music computer station. Half way through the lesson time students rotate to complete the lesson cycle.
- ❖ Teachers: Mrs. Amy Meenk and Miss Diana Fornshell.

MISSED BAND LESSONS

Make-up lessons are available. Mass Days (usually Wednesdays) will be the make-up lesson day. There are limited spots available and are available first-come first-served; thus it is important your child attend his/her scheduled band lesson. Students are responsible for signing themselves up for a make-up lesson if they want one. The make-up lesson sign up sheet will be posted in the rehearsal room in the "Make-up Lesson Binder."

An excused absence for not attending a band lesson is when...

- ❖ Your child is absent from school
- ❖ There is a school function (i.e. field trip, assemblies, guest speakers etc.) that conflict with a lesson time.
- ❖ Your child is taking a test in the class that he/she is pulled from to attend the band lesson. *(Depending on the subject material, some tests may be able to be taken at a different time- during recess/break out time/study time etc.- so that your child can attend the band lesson. Talk to the classroom teacher regarding alternative testing times if a test is planned during your child's band lesson).*

An unexcused absence for missing a band lesson is when...

- ❖ Your child forgets to attend his/her lesson when he/she is at school that day.

Students may sign up for make-up lessons for both excused and unexcused lesson absences.

SHS BAND PARTICIPATION FEE

- ❖ Varsity, Concert, and Wind Ensemble students: \$375/year
- ❖ Guitarists and pianists in Jazz Band: \$120 for the season (October-May)
- ❖ Automatic payment system available. Speak with school office personnel for further details.
- ❖ All payments made to the school office.



JAZZ BAND (extra-curricular)

- 6th- 8th grade students
- **Participation in Concert Band or Wind Ensemble required- exception for guitarists & keyboardists.** Jazz Band is the extra-curricular area with-in the area of music. Students must be enrolled in either Concert Band or Wind Ensemble to be eligible for Jazz Band.
- Audition required. **Audition music available September 20th in room 220**
- Audition dates: Sept. 28, Oct. 5th, Oct. 12th, and, *if needed*, Oct. 19th - sign up for one 10 minute time slot
- Instrumentation- alto and tenor saxophones, **baritone saxophone (Needed!)** trumpet, trombone, baritone, drums, electric guitarist, bass guitarist, pianist.
- Rehearses Wednesdays 8:00-8:50 AM; Regular participation expected! Lack of participation (3 unexcused absences) may result in removal from the group. Over sleeping, doing homework, making up a test for another class, group work, etc. are not reasons for an excused absence.
- The Jazz Band “season” runs from October- May. **Students must commit for the entire season.**
- First Rehearsal: October 26th
- **Jazz Band Performances:** Required attendance.
 - Empty Bowls Fundraiser (Hopkins)- Tuesday, March 20th- performance during the school day- performance time TBD
 - Fiesta of the Arts- Wednesday, May 2nd; evening concert; Arrive 5:15 PM; Perform 5:30-6:15 PM.
 - Spring Concert- Thursday, May 24th; 6:30 pm at Westwood Community Church. Students arrive at 5:45 PM
- PRACTICE: Students are expected to practice jazz band music outside of rehearsals! We have limited time together--- your individual practice is essential for the ensemble’s success!



CONCERT PARTICIPATION POLICY

Concert participation is required. **It is impossible to “make up” a performance and the other band members must carry an extra burden to cover the missing part when a student is missing.** Concerts are the culmination of many hours of hard work. They enhance the learning process and are a vital part of the course objectives and the grading policy. Excused absences will be granted in cases of an emergency, such as serious illness of the student or death in the family. Please call if such an emergency

arises. If an individual has a special reason for missing a concert, **a two-week notice from the parent by note or by phone, is required so the director may make necessary musical and logistical adjustments.**

With an excused concert absence, the student will be required to make up the concert grade as the director sees fit. With an unexcused concert absence, the student's final trimester grade will be affected.

CONCERT ATTIRE

- ❖ **MMEA Middle Level Band Festival (Wind Ensemble only):** Black pants or skirt, white top. Dress it up or wear the SHS School uniform. SHS Dress code applies!
- ❖ **Christmas and Spring Concert:** How do you want to present yourself? If you look your best, you will perform your best! Dress in your "Sunday best." No jeans, no t-shirts with logos. SHS dress code applies!
- ❖ **Fiesta of the Arts (Jazz Band only):** Black pants or skirt, SOLID color top (any color).

On **non-uniform days and St. Hubert extra- and co-curricular activities (concerts and festivals)**, students are expected to dress in clothing that is neat, clean, and in good repair. Any attire which draws attention to itself, including but not exclusive to, attire which makes reference to alcohol, tobacco, or drugs, clothing that does not cover the shoulder, midriff, back, and chest, clothing that does not cover undergarments, and shorts/skirts shorter than halfway up the thigh are unacceptable. **Low-waisted or extremely close fitting pants are unacceptable.** Judgment may be used at the discretion of the St. Hubert Staff regarding inappropriate attire.



REHEARSAL CANCELLATION PROCEDURES

Notification regarding morning band rehearsal cancellations occurs one of two ways. In the event that Mrs. Meenk is unable to attend the morning of a rehearsal, a phone tree will be used. Students will be asked to call the next person on the phone tree list to inform every student of the cancellation. Instructions will also be included on the phone tree. **Please keep this readily available so everyone can rely on this form of communication.** For absences known a day ahead of time, cancellation by email will be used.

The other form of cancellation is that which involves a district-wide school closing or late start due to winter weather. **The phone tree or email will NOT be used in this situation.** Please stay tuned to your local weather stations when the weather is questionable.

RECOMMENDED INSTRUMENT BRANDS AND EQUIPMENT LIST

ALL STUDENTS NEED: Instrument, 3-ring Binder with plastic sheet protectors, Folding Wire Music Stand (*used for home practice*), pencil, lesson book

- ❖ **Flute:** Armstrong, Gemeinhardt, Selmer, Yamaha, cleaning rod and cotton cloth.
- ❖ **Oboe:** Selmer, Yamaha, Jupiter - student model with 2 soft fiber cane reeds and 1 medium soft wood reed.
- ❖ **Clarinet:** Vito with Woodwind Vito II or Vito 2RV mouthpiece, Selmer, Yamaha, Buffet B12, all with 4 reeds, cork grease, swab, and a mouthpiece brush.
- ❖ **Alto Saxophone:** Vito, Yamaha, Buffet Evette, Selmer AS300, all with mouthpiece, 4 reeds, cork grease, swab, neck cleaner, and neck strap, and a mouthpiece brush.
- ❖ **Trumpet:** Bach Tr300, Conn, Holton, King, Yamaha, all with Bach 7C mouthpiece, valve oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush and snake.
- ❖ **French Horn:** Bach, Yamaha, Conn, Holton, King, rotor oil, mouthpiece brush
- ❖ **Trombone:** Bach, Conn, Holton, King, Yamaha, all with Bach 11C or 12C mouthpiece, slide cream (not liquid), water bottle, mouthpiece brush and cleaning snake.
- ❖ **Baritone:** Bach, Conn, Holton, King, Yamaha, all with Bach 11C or 12C mouthpiece, valve oil, mouthpiece brush and cleaning snake.
- ❖ **Percussion:** Either a Percussion Kit (2 1/2 octave bells, drum pad, mallets, 2B drum sticks) OR Ross Percussion (Xylophone, Marimba) AND practice pad OR snare drum; a pocket size metronome.

SCHOOL EQUIPMENT USE

Students and parents must complete an “Instrument Check Out Form” for all school-owned instruments. The student is responsible for the care of school-owned equipment issued to him/her. Any student losing or destroying any school equipment shall pay the repair or replacement cost for that equipment.



COMMON QUESTIONS FROM STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Can my child participate **in band and athletics**?

Definitely YES! A number of students at all grade levels are involved in SHS athletics and band. This includes both boys and girls and involves all sports. Many students can and do excel in a musical instrument and in athletics. Do not deprive a child of making music to participate in athletics or vice versa!

How much time should I **practice** every day/week?

Students are more engaged and participate fully during band rehearsals when they have practiced their band music. Students learn more during private lessons when they are prepared to perform their weekly assignments. Playing exam grades improve with daily practice routines.

It takes effort to play an instrument, and there is no substitute for home practice. You must be patient with yourself. Playing an instrument requires the development and training of muscles in the face and jaw, hands and fingers, arms, and shoulders.

My practice expectation (homework for band) is to be prepared for rehearsals and private lessons. This means to learn your parts for band, as well as your weekly lesson assignments. Some students can achieve this task with the minimum required 80 minutes of practice a week, others an average of 120 minutes each week. **The expectation is a practice routine of a minimum of 80 minutes every week.** Spreading the time over five or six days as part of the daily routine is a great way to achieve your performance goals.

What measures are taken to ensure **the safety and security of instruments**? Where are the instruments **stored** when at school?

Shelves in the storage room in the rehearsal room (220) are available for students to use during the school day. Students with larger instruments (saxophones, trumpets, baritones etc.) may store their instrument while students with smaller cases (ie. flutes, clarinets) may choose to keep their instrument in their locker. The storage room is open to all so that students may access their instruments when they have lessons and rehearsals.

May my child **leave his/her instrument at school** overnight?

Students may leave instruments in the storage room overnight, however, they do this **at their own risk**. The rehearsal room is a shared open space with the parish community. This room is utilized often for evening music rehearsals, parish and community meetings, and other functions not music related.

Therefore, the school is not liable for an instrument left at school. I recommend the student take his/her instrument home every night. This will also support a regular, consistent home practice routine by having the instrument at home.

Why should my child **participate band?**

Playing an instrument teaches children to be creative. It helps them actively work towards a goal. It gives them a sense of belonging. It teaches them to work together, helps them make friends.

Playing an instrument is hard work. (Nothing comes easy). The rewards from both the recognition and the practicing are many for those who play. Students get much out of playing an instrument and taking an active part in music.

All this is true whether your child continues with music or not. And there is always the possibility of discovering genuine talent-the opportunity for a professional or serious music career. There's more to playing an instrument than just "music." Your child will develop the life skills found in all successful people.

- **Concentration:** That indefinable something that aims the mind exclusively at one problem; backs it into a corner, then tries to solve it. When a child learns to play an instrument, he is also learning to reach out and grasp this most wonderful ability. Learning to play an instrument requires strict attention, and absolute focus on the tones and rhythms dictated by the music. When this is done, the child will have developed one of the most useful functions of the human mind: **concentration.**
- **Poise:** The ability to remain unruffled under pressure, to take things in stride. In learning to play an instrument, a child must adjust to the pressures of instant actions, instant decisions; the eye must tell the brain to finger or hit the correct notes; do it in a set tempo, at a certain amount of time. No more, no less. Then, the real test: put it all together and perform for an audience. This develops **poise.**
- **Self-confidence:** The voice from within that says, "you can do it." Self-confidence is the great doubt remover. When a student studies a band instrument, he is also nurturing and feeding his best friend: his own self-confidence. Instrumental study is demanding. It's an uphill battle between the notes of music and the determination on the part of the student to overcome this obstacle. Of course he'll win. It just takes practice. And, as the student progresses, his self-confidence will grow.

"Each of us has a spark of life inside us, and our highest aspiration ought to be to set off that spark in one another."

~Mark Albion