

April 2023

Vol 3 Issue 3

# CDH MUSIC

*Monthly Newsletter*

*From the Cretin-Derham Hall Band Room*



## FUNDRAISING FOR CA

Updates and information on fundraising efforts for the upcoming trip to San Diego. p. 03

## FINAL CONCERTS

All the important information and updates for the upcoming Band performances, and grading reminders. p. 03

## CONTEST UPDATE

Solo and Ensemble contest was cancelled this year. Updated information included. p. 04

## THE FORGETTING CURVE

Music is deeply intertwined with our memory, emotions, and recall.

CONTINUED TO P. 02



# THE FORGETTING CURVE

Pamela Pauls reads more than just about any other person in America. As the the editor of the New York Times Book Review, she consumes words the way most of us consume air. Pamela has merged her passion and profession into an all day consumption of all things on the printed page. As one of America's foremost literary scholars, you would think she would have a highly developed sense of memory and recall, but she doesn't. In fact, she admits that she remembers very little of what she reads once she is done.

"I almost always remember where I was as I was reading it, and the physical object of the book itself," says Paul. "I remember the edition; I remember the cover; I usually remember where I bought it, or who gave it to me. What I don't remember — and it's terrible — is everything else." And it turns out she's not alone.

The "forgetting curve," as it's called, is steepest during the first 24 hours after you learn something. Exactly how much you forget, percentage-wise, varies. Unless you review the material, much of it slips down the drain after the first day, with more to follow in the days after. This leaves you with a fraction of what you originally took in. Except when it comes to music.

Music and songs are different from books in that they aren't just the consumption of information, they're part of the tapestry of life. They combine and attach themselves to experiences and become woven in with the events of our lives and once they are intertwined, they are virtually impossible to separate.

Don't believe me? Just think of one of the first songs you learned decades ago: "A,B,C,D,E,F,G... Next time won't you sing with me." Try and say the previous sentence without singing it (and speaking the letters in rhythm counts as singing!).

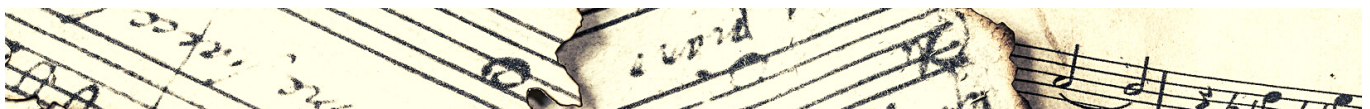
I wonder if "reading" printed music is as forgettable as reading the printed word. I know that for me, I remember very little of what I played in high school and almost nothing from college. However, as a student and as a teacher, I remember with great clarity the "feeling I had" and the "place I was" when I played/conducted it. As someone who read musical scores the way Ms. Pauls read books, I must admit that my "forgetting curve" when it comes to reading music is just as steep. I suspect that it is similar for my students.

What makes music different? It's the fact that the sound is intertwined with the moments and memories of our lives. In fact, once memories and music are combined, they are inseparable. Music allows us to recall our memories faster and with greater clarity. I could cite research studies about the frontal cortex and the temporal lobe, but for both our sanities, can I ask you to take my word for it?

Just yesterday, after rehearsal, I was listening to a recording of two of my favorite pieces of music. And, while I was sitting in my office doing paperwork, the memories and feelings of when I first performed them were as immediate and endearing as if they occurred yesterday.

We KNOW that the act of learning WITH music increases comprehension. So imagine what learning while MAKING music does for your child!

Happy trails,  
Mr. Zahler







# UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

## JROTC Twilight Parade Performance

Concert Band

Wednesday, May 10th @ 6:00 PM - Turf Field at CDH

- The CDH Concert Band will perform ceremony and patriotic music for the annual JROTC Twilight Parade.
  - Student Call Time: 5:00 PM in the CDH Band Room.
  - Student Attire: School uniform, JROTC uniform if applicable.

## CDH Pops Concert

Concert Band & Jazz Band

Thursday, May 18th @ 7:00 PM - Lilian Theater

- Our last concert of the year is rapidly approaching! Please join the CDH Concert Band and Jazz Band for a fun night of pops, soundtrack, and jazz music. The yearly senior awards will also be presented at this concert.
  - Student Call Time: 6:15 PM in the CDH Band Room.
  - Student Attire: Concert Black with a tasteful pop of color.

## Centennial Community Band Spring Concert

Optional Event for Students

Friday, May 19th @ 7:00 PM - Hmong College Prep Academy

- This is an invitation to a completely optional performance. Mr. Zahler performs with a group called the Centennial Community Band. Their spring concert is the same week as our pops concert! Students are welcome and encouraged to attend. The concert is free and open to the public. Enter through Door A.

## REQUESTS FOR PICTURES!

The CDH Band is looking for all your best photographs! If you have any pictures you are willing to share with the CDH Band Program and/or Yearbook, please send them to Mr. Zahler! Photos sent could be used for band marketing materials, the CDH webpage, classroom posters, the yearbook, among other potential outlets.



## CHOCOLATES & FUNDRAISING

The 22-23 Band Chocolate Sales fundraiser has officially wrapped up. We had many motivated students selling chocolate bars. Most notable was a senior who sold over seven boxes of chocolates, purely to benefit students who need financial aid for next years trip to California!

As the CDH Band Parents Association starts to regain ground going into next year, we'll be returning to some classic fundraisers, potentially including the Bandcake Breakfast (contingent on parent volunteer support). If you are interesting helping support the Band Parents Association in any capacity, please email Mr. Zahler and he will put you in touch with this years Parent Coordinator.

# GRADE REMINDERS

As we approach the end of the year, just a couple reminders for keeping grades up. The Tri 3 lesson schedule is accessible on Google Classroom for band. Students have 4 required lessons per trimester, and this year, they have been pre-scheduled. Make sure your student is up to date on their lessons. If they've missed one, they should meet with the band teacher to reschedule it as soon as possible.

Students enrolled in honors-level band should make sure they have an honors project completed and submitted two weeks before the end of the trimester. Guidelines are posted on Google Classroom and in the band room.



## BAND HANDBOOK

The Band Handbook functions as the syllabus for Concert and Beginning Band classes at CDH.

It has the answers to ALL the questions you could need!

If you need a new copy, [I have attached it here](#) digitally for you.

Please let me know if you need any more information, as well.

# SOLO & ENSEMBLE CONTEST

This years Solo & Ensemble Contest was unfortunately cancelled due to inclement weather. Our MSHSL Region is currently discussing the potential to reschedule it for May. If that happens, we'll let you know.

If that doesn't happen, CDH could explore hosting an in-house contest in May, if there is enough student interest. If your student would like to perform at an in-house, CDH-only contest for critique, awards, and/or lettering in band, please email Mr. Zahler ([nzahler@c-dh.org](mailto:nzahler@c-dh.org)).



# LOCAL PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

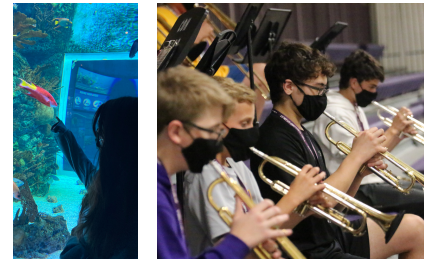
The Twin Cities house two major youth music groups: the Minnesota Youth Symphonies (MYS) and the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies (GTCYS). These organizations are high-level and prestigious student groups led by major figures in the Twin Cities music scene. Both ensembles have auditions approaching in the next few weeks/months. If your student is interested in participating in a wonderful and rewarding group next year, have them check out the links below!

GTCYS: <https://gtcys.org/auditions>

- Late April Auditions (Virtual)

MYS: <https://www.mnyouthsymphonies.org/audition-registration>

- June 9/10th Auditions (In-Person)



## CDH BAND PARENT ASSOCIATION

As we head look ahead to the 23-24 school year, we are seeking band parents to help plan, coordinate, and support functions and efforts for the band. If you are willing to help out in any capacity - as much or little as you like - please contact Mr. Zahler!

We will host a planning meeting for next year towards the end of May 2023.