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Vol 3 Issue 1

CDH MUSIC

Monthly Newsletter

From the Cretin-Derham Hall Band Room



PEP BAND UPDATE

The pep band is a fun and important part of what we do in band. Learn more below. p. 04

CONCERTS & ACADEMICS

All the important information and updates for the upcoming Band performances, as well as student coursework. p. 03

JAZZ BAND UPDATE

Jazz band is fired back up after a great last year. Learn more about this years plans below. p. 05

BACK AT IT

Cue the AC/DC because we're back (in black) for a brand new school year! We've got plenty of new and fun things on the roster, and students and parents can look forward to an amazing year.

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BACK AT IT

The evidence is everywhere that the school year is in full swing! Homework has ramped up, sports practices and clubs are meeting, and, of course, there's music.

Finding the balance between it all is part of growing up. Our young people are exploring new activities, new interests, and figuring out who they are — who they want to be — all while striving to meet the demands of school, home, and their social lives. Add in the toll of an ongoing pandemic, and it can be challenging for your child (and for you)!

Through it all, you can rest easy knowing that by being a part of our group your child will be better equipped to navigate the challenges. We know this because creating music has benefits for emotional, physical, and cognitive growth.

Playing an instrument engages the whole brain and improves reading, critical thinking skills and the ability to focus and pay attention. But there's more. By playing in the ensemble, students develop bonds with one another. Music is a ready group of friends who are there to support one another through thick and thin. And, each year that these students play together, even if they don't spend time together outside of school, the bonds grow stronger.

Your child is shaping who they will be — they are making decisions and learning behaviors that will have an impact on them for the rest of their life. Being involved in music helps students make good choices by surrounding them with other good students and challenging them to grow musically (and otherwise) each and every day.

My hope is that you and your child will recognize music as more than just an activity, but an essential part of their growth as a person. Rather than a stressor, music enables them to achieve their goals, build the life skills that are invaluable in all that they do, and, most importantly, enrich their lives in a way few activities will.

If there's anything I can do for you or your child, don't hesitate to message me.

Sincerely,
Mr. Zahler





UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

Band Performances

Fall Concert

Concert Band, Jazz Band

Thursday, November 10th @ 7:00 PM - CDH Lilian Theatre

- The CDH Band kicks off the 2022-2023 performance season with its first evening concert. From patriotic to spooky and everything in between, this concert has something for everyone.

UST Christmas Concert

Concert Band

Monday, December 5th @ Evening PM - Woulfe Hall @ Anderson Student Center University of St. Thomas - St. Paul, MN

- We are excited to announce that the CDH Band will be performing a joint concert with the University of St. Thomas Band. Details TBA.

Christmas Concert

Concert Band, CDH Choir, Jazz Band

Wednesday, December 14th @ 7:30 PM - Mauer Field House

- The CDH Band & Choir cordially invite you to the annual CDH Christmas Concert. Featuring festive and reverent music from the Concert Band, Jazz Band, and Concert Choir, it will be an exciting send-off into the Christmas season and Winter Break.

This year we will be rolling out a new communication method for quick updates: the Remind 101 program. For those unfamiliar, Remind is a service that allows subscribers to receive either text message blasts or app notifications from a particular source (in this case, the band teacher).

- We will have two different Remind outlets, one for the band students and one for the parents and guardians.
- To enroll in the CDH Band Remind program, you can either download the Remind app OR text in, using the following information:

1. Follow the link below. If you don't have the app, you will be prompted to download it.
2. If you do have the app, use the group code listed below.
3. If you don't have app capabilities, you can get text updates by texting the code to 81010.

ACADEMIC UPDATE

As we proceed into the second half of Trimester 1, check with your student to ensure they're up to date on all their academic work.

For Band, so far:

- 4 twenty-minute Lessons per Trimester
 - Students sign up on Google Classroom.
 - Lesson 1 is done!
- 3 Pep Band Games, so far. 4 to go in Tri 1.
- 1 Pep Fest performance, so far.
- 2 ROTC event performances.
- Fall Concert (Nov 10)
- Various small assignments on Google Classroom.
- Practice Video assignments, when assigned.
- Honors Projects (for Honors credit students).





BAND HANDBOOK

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

Your student should have brought it home for you to read and sign the attached agreement form.

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

The agreement form was the band students' first piece of homework, and should be turned in ASAP.

PEP BAND

Pep Band is a fun, rewarding, and important part of what we do in band. The pep band, sometimes called athletic bands at other schools, play in the stands during many sporting events. The pep band plays during pregame, time outs, when our teams score, and during halftime. The music is fun and upbeat, and helps lift school spirit.

While pep band events are expected of band students, one of the most important focuses on the growth of the band program this year is flexibility and student-empowerment. Many band students over the last three years have expressed interest in adjusting pep band procedures to align more with other SEC Conference schools.

In order to achieve this, there are a few new and returning policies for pep band:

- For each type of sport, band students are expected to 75% of the games on the schedule, minimum and rounded up, instead of 100%. Students have the liberty to choose from those games which works best for their schedules so long as they meet the minimum. There will be incentives (TBD) for students who attend more than the required number of games! We would love to see all band musicians at every game.
- The band will now only play pregame through halftime, instead of the entire game. This is an improvement the students are VERY excited for! After halftime, the students are encouraged to pack up their instruments, stands, and music, and join their peers in the student section for the game. If students wish to head home instead, they are also free and encouraged to do so.

Purchase Recommendation: players of instruments that have air blown through them should purchase a lyre (read "liar") for their instrument if possible. A lyre is a tiny music-stand-clip that attaches to your instrument. They save a LOT of headaches as it eliminates the need of transporting music stands! Lyres are typically around \$10-15 and are available from local music stores such as Schmitt Music, Cadenza Music, Eckroth Music, and Groth Music.

The Pep Band schedule is currently being revised. Some events will be removed from the schedule, but no pep band events will be added. We are working to reduce the out of school commitments for our active students!



TRI 1 PEP BAND

Fri - 9/30 - Football

Wed - 10/5 - Fall Review (Req'd)

Thur - 10/6 - Volleyball

Thur - 10/13 - Volleyball

Wed - 10/19 - Football

Thur - 11/10 - Fall Concert (Req'd)



SAN ANTONIO RECAP

Every two years, the CDH Band embarks on a national tour - a performance trip of some kind to somewhere out of state. Past locations include Chicago, Orlando, Denver, and many more! Last year, the band flew to San Antonio, Texas.

They put on several different performances in places like El Mercado, Six Flags Fiesta, and even on the famous San Antonio Riverwalk! In addition to the performances, the band received a masterclass at St. Mary's University with Dr. Matt Mireles, and saw all the wonderful San Antonio sights like the Alamo, the Riverwalk (with BBQ!), mass at a local Mission, the Tower of the Americas, Corpus Christi beaches, Six Flags Fiesta, and much more. Many students attribute this trip as their favorite band experience so far!

The next tour will be during the 2023-2024 academic year. While details are still being settled, the tour destination will be announced later this fall. Fundraising for these tours is always important, and will begin this year.

The Band Parents Association will be coordinating a few fundraising efforts this year in order to help prepare. If you or someone you know is interested in helping with these fundraisers (in any capacity - large or small), please contact the band teacher and they will help you work with the Band Parents Association.



JAZZ BAND

Last year, we had an excellent return to Jazz Band following the two years of funky (pun intended), COVID-ridden school! The Jazz Band performed at the Christmas Concert and the Pops Concert at the end of the year. This year, we're looking forward to getting better and having even more fun!

The Jazz Band meets twice a week during Flex Time, and is open to any and all musicians who wish to participate. Jazz Band is currently scheduled for Tues/Wed during 2nd Flex, but interested folks will meet to find a time that works for everyone!

Students learn various styles of music, such as Swing, Bebop, Latin, Fusion, Funk, Rock, and more. More importantly, students all participate in improvisation, which is the heart of jazz.

Students interested in playing with the Jazz Band are encouraged to talk to Mr. Z. The Jazz Band season will begin in early October.