

May 2011

Dear Band Parents,



We have had a tremendous year here in our Instrumental music program! I would like to extend a big thank you to all of you who have supported your child in playing an instrument this year. Without you, our program would not be possible!

I have received many inquiries about this summer's and next year's musical activities and I hope the following information is helpful:

### **SUMMER CONCERTS**

For Summer Concerts (most are FREE!) visit the following web pages:

<http://annapoliswindsymphony.com> - The Annapolis Wind Symphony (Mrs. Syversen's Band)

<http://www.columbiaorchestra.org> - The Columbia Orchestra

<http://www.columbiaband.org> - The Columbia Concert Band

<http://www.usna.edu/USNABand> - The US Naval Academy Band

<http://www.army.mil/fieldband/index.htm> - The US Army Field Band

<http://www.marineband.usmc.mil> - The US Marine Band

<http://www.navyband.navy.mil> - The US Navy Band

<http://www.wolf-trap.org> - Wolf Trap (Not Free)

<http://www.kennedy-center.org/calendar> - The Kennedy Center (Not Free)

<http://www.merriweathermusic.com/schedule> - Merriweather Post Pavilion (Not Free)



### **PRIVATE INSTRUCTION**

Private instruction is ENTHUSIASTICALLY recommended for all Band students. It is a great way to keep your child musically motivated over the summer, and it will raise his/her confidence level upon our return to school in the fall! For a complete list of private teachers in the area provided by the Howard County Parents for School Music please visit [www.amybejm.com](http://www.amybejm.com) and click on the "Private Teacher List" link near the bottom of the homepage. CALL NOW because openings get filled very quickly! Private lessons are beneficial and FUN!!!!

### **INSTRUMENT REPAIRS**

Now is a great time to get your instrument "tuned up." Here are five possibilities:

Music and Arts Center (410) 461-1844 (Ellicott City)

Keith Daudelin (410) 799-4363 (Elkridge)

Dennis McGuire (410) 439-4315

Jim Tull (301) 776-2683 (Laurel – will work while you wait!)

Steve Ocone (woodwinds only) (410) 747-4957 (Catonsville)

Need to borrow a horn while the work is being done? Let me know, and I might be able to lend you one! By the way, unless there is something specific wrong with your mouthpiece, KEEP IT during repairs. They don't need it, and you will need it if I lend you an instrument! If you are unsure about whether repair work is necessary, give me a call.

## **SUMMER CAMPS**

A list was sent home through email of excellent summer band camps in the area for all students. This list is attached and can also be found on the band website at: [www.amybejm.com](http://www.amybejm.com)

## **WILL I HEAR MY CHILD PLAY THE SAME PIECES ALL SUMMER?**

No way! Your child will have plenty to work on this summer as he or she continues to review and work out of the "Measures of Success Book" from where they left off this year.

*Woodwinds/Brass:* You should review and then continue to work in your "Measures of Success Book" using Mrs. Syversen's 4 Practice Method Steps.

You may also continue learning the scales on page 51 of your book and/or scale sheet.

*Percussionists* You should review and then continue to work in your "Measures of Success Book" using Mrs. Syversen's 4 Practice Method Steps. You should review and work on pieces for both bells AND snare drum.

If that still isn't enough, students may want to try these books in addition to our already required "Measures of Success Book":

*Beginning Brass/Woodwinds -*

"Essential Elements" book 1 or "Now Go Home and Practice" book 1

*Advanced Brass/Woodwinds -*

"Rubank Elementary Method," "Rubank Intermediate Method," "Essential Elements" book 1 or book 2, or a book of your favorite pop/movie tunes

*All Percussion -*

"Basic Drum Book" by Shinstine and Hoey, "Alfred's Drum Method" or

"Fundamental Studies for Snare Drum" by Garwood Whaley

**ALL Students -**

"Winning Rhythms" by Edward L. Ayola or "Rhythm Vocabulary Charts"

Book 1 by Ed Sueta

## **KEEPING YOUR CHILD EXCITED ABOUT BAND**

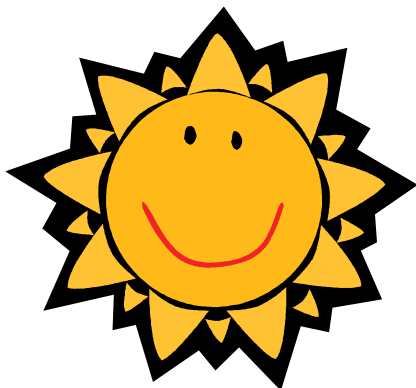
Attached are summer practice charts, which may be turned in at the student's option. It is in your child's best interest to maintain a 15 minute-per-day practice routine, both in terms of muscle development and retention of material taught. Please help me reinforce the fact that CORRECT PRACTICING IS NOT A PUNISHMENT. It is the key to musical success and leads to a great feeling of accomplishment!

As always, try to take some time to share a recording, attend a concert, or ask for a private home recital. **YOU** are the most important influence in your child's musical life. No student will be denied the opportunity to play next year, but it would be GREAT if we could all pick up in August where we are leaving off now. Yes, this will take some work, but think how great the children will feel when they begin next year learning NEW concepts instead of reviewing!

Please remember that your student is most likely to succeed when you are involved in the process.

One final note, regarding the beginning of next year: each August, Fifth Grade Band students return to school with a varied degree of excitement about playing. Most can't wait to get started, while inevitably some have doubts about whether they will enjoy, succeed, etc. What I will ask when we return is that ALL students who participated this year "give it a shot" for two weeks in ADVANCED Band. With your support, your child can continue to develop skills, friendships, and discipline, and have fun!

Thank you very much for an enjoyable and fulfilling year. If I can help with anything, please email me at [amy\\_syversen@hcpss.org](mailto:amy_syversen@hcpss.org) or call me. My number is (301) 661-6654.



Musically,

Amy Syversen  
Band Director



## Summer Practice Calendar June 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Weekly Total
	20	21	22	23	24	25	
26	27	28	29	30			

As a motivational tool band students may use these Summer Practice Charts to help keep a record of their practicing progress over the summer.

Please enter your daily practice minutes in each day's square and have a parent/guardian initial. Also, add up your weekly minutes and place them at the end of each week.

Summer Practice Charts will not be graded, but they are a great way to keep track of your summer progress. You should aim for a minimum of 15 minutes of practice a day. Remember it is better to practice a little each day than to practice a lot all at once.

***If you will be a returning Fifth Grader next year you may turn in all three Summer Practice Charts signed and dated to Mrs. Syversen in the fall to receive a gift!***

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Instrument \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



## Summer Practice Calendar July 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Weekly Total
					1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
31							

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Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



## Summer Practice Calendar August 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Weekly Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29	30	31				

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