

01.02.2017

Dear Band Parents,

Welcome to the second half of the school year! Below you will find a couple of updates on some of the big events that are coming up.

Communication

First of all, I'd like to remind you of the different ways you can keep up with what's going on. In addition to email, information is posted in various other venues. The links below will take you to the different places information is posted.

<http://www.kmlhs.org/kmlbands/>
<https://www.facebook.com/KMLESBP>
<http://kmlsband.blogspot.com/>

Monday Evening Rehearsals

Our Monday evening rehearsals return on January 16. If we need to cancel our Monday evening rehearsals due to weather at any point, I will send out an email, put a note on our website, post on Facebook, and send out a remind.com text. If you know your child will be absent from any rehearsals or performances, please fill out the online form at <https://goo.gl/324VYJ>.

Point and Minute Reports

Around this time of year, I like to give everyone a report on the points and minutes accumulated by each student this far into the year. A personal, detailed report has been uploaded into your child's digital folder. On the reports, you will see each point category, the requirements for earning those points and the number of points awarded for that activity listed as of December 13. I know there are a number of church and chapel performances that haven't been registered online yet. If a student plays for something outside of our own concert performances, he or she can earn 10 points by filling out the online form found at <https://goo.gl/S5FFJx>. If a student attends an event with live music, he or she can earn 5 points by filling out the online form found at <http://goo.gl/E2iNm8>. More information regarding the point system and the various awards offered can be found in the handbook you received at or after one of our parent meetings. If you haven't set up your access to your child's portfolio yet and have questions about how to do that, please let me know. If you have questions about the numbers on the reports or feel that credit for something is missing, please let me know that as well.

Pep Band Invitation for KML Grade School Night

On Thursday, January 26, KML will be hosting a special night where our 7th and 8th grade band students are invited to come help the KMLHS Pep Band provide some fun pre-game entertainment for the boys varsity basketball team. The game is scheduled to start at 7:15 PM. We will meet in the Band Room by 6:15 PM that night so we can run through a couple things and make sure everything is moved into the gym and ready to go by 6:45 PM. Let Mr. Amundson know if you have any questions. We hope to see many of you there!

Band Camp Dates

I have had a number of parents ask if we already have dates for our summer band camps set and we do! The camp for our returning students will run July 31-August 3 and will include a trip to Country Springs Water Park. The camp for new (beginning) band students will be August 7-10. Both camps will be FREE and will run from 8:30-11:30 each day, with an extended time on August 2 for the water park trip. Online registration forms will be available as we get closer.

Solo and Ensemble Festival

Our last bit of information is regarding the Solo and Ensemble registration for this year. This event will be held at KML on Saturday, March 4. Mr. Hubert and I have been working with all of our students to make sure everyone will have something they could use for the event. As we start things up here again in January, we will also be asking students if they would like to play a duet, trio, or other small group with some friends!

Every solo performance is expected to have piano accompaniment. The one exception in many cases is the snare drum since most snare drum solos do not have piano accompaniment included with them. Playing with an accompanist helps the students in many ways. They will learn to play in a one-on-one situation, which is much different from playing alone or in a large group. They also learn to lead, which is an important part of being a musician. Playing with another person can also be a great help to those students who are a little less comfortable in a solo situation. If you are able to do any accompanying for the students at your school or have any suggestions for other parents who are looking for an accompanist, please let me know. I am hoping to put together a list for those who don't have family members or friends who are able to do this for them.

Music will be provided for the day. Our students will have a copy of the book their solo came from and we will also provide one for the judge. Ensemble books and piano accompaniment books will be in the rooms and should remain there throughout the day.

Much more information about the KMLES Band Solo and Ensemble Festival will be coming in the next couple of weeks. If you have any questions about the event, feel free to ask at any time.

We have a lot of exciting things going on the rest of the year! As always, if you have any questions about anything, please let me know.

Nate Amundson
Director of Elementary School Bands