

01.29.2017

Band Parents,

As we near our solo and ensemble festival and a couple other events, here are some timely reminders.

### ***Monday Night Rehearsals***

Please remember not to park along the sidewalk outside the PAC when waiting to pick up your child. It creates a bottleneck for traffic moving in both directions and makes it unsafe for people walking to and from the parking area to the PAC. Please help alleviate this danger by parking in a spot in the lot across the way and waiting there.

If your child will be absent from any rehearsals or performances, please remember to either fill out the online form or email me in advance. It is very helpful for our rehearsal planning. The online form can be found at <https://goo.gl/324VYJ>.

I also wanted to alert the parents of our Mustang Band members that we've been dealing with an increasing amount of unwelcomed behavior in rehearsals. The students all know the expectations for our learning environment and some of them are choosing to act in ways that hinder their own learning and the learning of those around them. I am hopeful that what we have been talking about in rehearsal will help the environment improve so we don't have to ask students to sit out. As you have opportunity, please ask your child how he/she is helping create a positive learning environment in the band room.

### ***Monday, February 6th - No Lessons, No Rehearsals***

Next Monday, we have teacher meetings at KML during the day and will not be out for our normal Monday lessons. A couple of our Monday schools don't have school that day either, so that works out pretty well for everyone! We do not have any rehearsals scheduled for that evening either. Enjoy your night off!

### ***Solo and Ensemble Festival***

Most, if not all, of the student solos should be chosen at this point. Many of the students will receive the piano parts for their solos this week and we will try to get the other ones out the following week. Many of the percussion solos will not have accompaniment. Some ensembles may have them, but many won't. Please help your child find an accompanist for the festival. Playing with an accompanist helps our students in many ways. They 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.

***Please visit the link to fill out the form whether or not your child will be performing.*** I would like all of the online registration completed by February 3 in order to have enough time to complete a schedule and firm up judges for the day. The registration form can be found at <https://goo.gl/NmOXxH> and on our website. Some students have paired up with friends or siblings to begin work on duets and other small groups. The lesson teachers will take care of registering any ensembles. There is also a spot to request a certain time frame if you have other things scheduled for that day.

Thank you to the parents who have already signed up to help through the SignUpGenius form. We can still use helpers as room monitors and to help with the registration table. The time slots are currently set for 90 minutes, but if all of the slots get filled, we can open up more spots and shorten the amount of time we will need you to help. We can make sure that you are still able to see your child perform so don't let that stop you from signing up! If you are available to help at the registration table or as a room monitor for around 90 minutes that day, please visit this link to sign up: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10COD48AAAE23A3FF2-solo1>.

### ***Giving Credit Where Credit is Due***

We have a large number of students who have been very active in playing for church and chapel services this year! A growing number of those performances 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>. This would include playing for church, for chapel, or any other school or otherwise musical events. 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.

As always, let me know if you have any questions or concerns!