

September 1, 2016

Dear Twin Cities Homeschool Band Parents and Students,

Welcome to our new students and parents, and welcome back returning students and parents! I am looking forward to the great music making we will achieve this year as students work on their skills, along with the new friendships that will occur as we meet and study weekly. Glad you can learn and grow in this wonderful educational program we call the Twin Cities Homeschool Band!

The band program meets Bethlehem Baptist Church - North Campus at 5151 Program Avenue (located northwest of Interstate Highway 35W and County Hwy 10) in Mounds View (behind the BP gas station).

Thank you parents for all your help last year! Once again, we will need parent help for monitoring. Laura Stephenson will be contacting everyone.

We have two concerts set. Please reserve your calendars with the following dates and locations:

Christmas Concert: 7:00 PM, Friday December 16, 2016 at Bethlehem Baptist Church

Spring Concert: 7:00 PM, Friday May 19, 2017 at the Bethlehem Baptist Church

More details will follow as we approach each concert. There will also be extra performances at Mall of America for Symphonic and Concert Bands in December (date not set), and Symphonic Band at Lyngblomsten Care Center in March (date not set), plus other special events that will be posted including solo/ensemble contest and a possible band festival.

Our first day of band will be Thursday, September 8th. Beginning students should bring **Essential Elements, Book I** for your instrument which you can purchase at Schmitt or Eckroth Music. All other students will begin on the book and page where they left off last year, including all new students bringing their last year's lesson material. I recommend purchasing a folding music stand for home practice if you don't have one. Symphonic Band members: contact me if you need to be in the Medalist group and weren't included.

A special note to NEW families: Heather Jenson (Band President) will give two short orientations to new families, one at **9:30 AM** and **12:00 PM** to help you understand how the band day works and the proper use of the building. Please attend - especially if you are unfamiliar with our program. We will meet at the monitor's table.

I have been asked to remind parents that the **annual fee of \$110 per family** should be paid with cash or check on the first day of band (checks payable to Twin Cities Homeschool Band) at the monitor's table, making sure you mark your name off as paid. This fee is to offset the cost of the

church rental for concerts, lessons, rehearsals, printing, etc. and is separate from the monthly fee of \$50 per month per student.

Also, bring your signed handbook form (last page of the Handbook) signed by all students and one parent/guardian.

There will be NO BAND on the following dates:

November 24th (Thanksgiving Day) December 22nd, December 29th, and April 13th.

Check over the band schedule and make sure it is accurate for you. **Call me if you find any mistakes** (and I will fix them), or if you have any questions! Thanks so much.

A note to beginning band members: the schedule will change slightly in October when I add beginning band rehearsals.

Finally, print this letter and the band schedule and keep it to review as needed.

Thanks all!

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