

September 26, 2006

Dear Band, Orchestra, and Choir Parent(s) / Guardian(s),

We are more than two weeks into our adventure with our special ensembles. Things are coming along wonderfully. Please encourage your beginning students. Learning an instrument takes work and practice; it will not happen instantly, and many students become discouraged after the first few weeks. Encourage them to stick with it. Also, I wanted to communicate some important information about these groups.

Attendance: It is important that your student be present at the rehearsals and is on time. There are some students who have inconsistent attendance or are showing up late on a regular basis. It is important that the students are on time and attend regularly. The students do earn a grade for these classes.

Practice Time: For Orchestra and Band, the students should be practicing at home a minimum of 15 minutes daily. Regular daily practice, even for a short period of time, is far more beneficial than practicing once a week for an hour.

Materials: For Orchestra and Band, each student should have his or her own book (be sure to write the student's name on the book). Band: Accent on Achievement, book 1. Orchestra: Essential Elements 2000, book 1. Also, it is important that the students come to rehearsal with their instrument, book, and a pencil.

School Work: It is important that the students keep up with the school work in their regular classes.

Instrument Storage: The students will need to bring their instrument(s) to and from school. If there is a problem with bus transportation with the larger instruments, please contact me

Extra Help: I am available for students who need extra help during their lunch recess Monday through Friday. They just need to get a music pass from me or their teacher and come in after they eat. If that time does not work, we will find another time to make sure that each student gets the help he or she needs.

Rehearsal Schedule and Performance Schedule: The rehearsal schedule is on the back. The performance schedule will come out soon.

Performance Attire: If you have black and white, wear that, if not, dress nice. It is not necessary for you to go out and buy something new for our performances.

Thank you so much for your support for our special programs at Lewis and Clark. They are an incredibly valuable experience for your student.

Sincerely,

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