

MusicAlliance

educate. enrich. inspire.

BAND PROGRAM @ GESU SCHOOL: Frank Adams - Band Director

Thank you for your interest in the band program. This is a very exciting time for the Gesu bands as the 2009-10 school year saw the band program grow by leaps and bounds, both in size and quality. As I begin my 2nd year as Gesu band director, I am very happy to report that this excitement has continued into this new school year with a very high percentage of the students who were in band last school year continuing in the program this school year. Furthermore, there is also a high level of interest amongst the current 4th graders - who will become this year's beginning band (40 families attended the band information meeting in addition to a substantial number of parents who could not attend but have requested further information). Sister Linda started off the parent meeting by speaking of how excited and pleased she is with the resurgence of the band program in the past year. She pointed out that long-term band participation helps students academically and stated that she highly encourages the parents of any interested student to give their child the opportunity to give the band program a try. I hope that your child will be a part of this wonderfully life-enriching experience. This packet contains a recap of the information that I discussed at the band parent meeting.

The band program is affordable and it is conveniently held during regular school hours so it will not interfere with your child being involved in sports, cheerleading, scouts, etc (in fact a lot of band students are involved in a variety of other activities). Students receive a weekly 25 minute small group instrument lesson during the school day. For these lessons, students are assigned to a small lesson group with other students who play the same instrument/part. The starting time of the lessons is rotated each week and students are given a printed schedule of their lesson times. This system of rotating lesson times has been used in parochial schools across the country for many years. It is successful because it allows students to receive a weekly in-school instrument lesson without impeding academic progress. The students will also receive a weekly 30 minute "Full Band" Rehearsal with all of the various instruments together. This is where they learn how to function and perform as a large group and where they prepare for their concert performances. Full Band is held once a week during lunch recess period. Beginning Band classes are held on *Wednesdays*, and Intermediate and Advanced Band classes are held on *Thursdays*.

There are many supporting reasons for why participation in the school band program is worthwhile. Research studies have shown that students who participate in school instrumental music programs score more than 100 points higher on the SAT Test; demonstrate significant improvements in spatial reasoning abilities (important for success in math and science); have improved reading abilities, higher self-esteem, and are less likely to be involved with gangs and drugs. I have noticed that the majority of the band kids I have taught over the years are repeatedly on the honor rolls. Learning and performing on an instrument in band is one of the few activities that uses both sides of the brain simultaneously. In Band, everyone is an active participant and an important part of the group - no one "sits on the bench". Performing on an instrument is one of the few things that a person can start in childhood and still be active with latter in life (in fact I have participated in community bands whose oldest members were in their 80s).

Last week, I presented a special band instrument assembly to the students at which they learned about the various instruments that make up our school band program. The students then each had the opportunity to see the instruments up close while I conducted instrument aptitude testing. This may be the first time that your child has expressed to you an interest in learning to play a musical instrument or in joining the band. Keep in mind that this is the first time that they have been introduced to the various band instruments up close and personal and that after years of seeing older students performing in bands, it is now their turn to have the opportunity to experience the many benefits of participation in the Band! If your child has the interest, I highly encourage you to allow them to give it a try – there is little to lose and so much to gain. Band participation is an investment in your child and in their future. Be sure to read the "Why Enroll Your Child in Band" section of this packet for many fascinating reasons for why participation in the school band program is so worthwhile.

If your child has never played a musical instrument before, that's fine – this is the time to add this wonderful skill to their education and life. If your child already plays another instrument (for example a non-band instrument such as piano), their experience on that other instrument will be of benefit as they learn a band instrument, and instead of just playing an instrument by themselves, they will experience the structured group rehearsal and performance opportunities that are such a rewarding part of being a member of the band. Our school bands give 2 evening concerts a year: one in December and one in May. As your child progresses through the band program, there are multiple Honor Band opportunities (all-star bands made up of students from many different schools) for outstanding middle school band students.

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If you need an instrument for your child, you may obtain one from the music store or other source of your choice. Many parents like to do a short-term rental of an instrument from a music store initially to see if their child is going to like it. While you are not obligated to use them, there are two music stores that I recommend. One is Motter's Music which is located at 5228 Mayfield Rd. in Lyndhurst. They have been in business in this area for many years and specialize in serving school band programs. They rent instruments both by the month & by 3 month periods (they are open on weekdays from 10AM to 8:30PM). The other music store that I recommend is Rettig Music. Rettig offers a very affordable 3 month "trial rental plan" that costs \$12 for most instruments (yes you read correctly – a grand total of \$12 to rent most band instruments for the first three months). Although their store is in Westlake, you can order an instrument from them online and instruments that are ordered from Rettig Music through their website can be delivered to the school in time for the first beginning band instrument classes (which are on Wednesday 9/15) as long as you complete their online instrument rental form by 3:00 PM on Tuesday (9/14). To rent an instrument from Rettig, go to www.rettigmusic.com and click on "RENT ONLINE" then click on "Band" at bottom of the webpage. On the next page that appears select *Gesu* from the "District" drop-down list of schools, then click on the blue music note that says "Go" in it, and follow the onscreen instructions. Also MusicAlliance, thanks to a grant from the D'Addario Foundation, has an inventory of instruments for use by students whose families are in financial need (let me know right away if you need an application for the financial need D'Addario instruments) that rent for \$35 a semester. If your child will using a used instrument (i.e. from someone in your family), please make arrangements for me to check it over to be sure that it is in good playing condition. If your child tries the band program for the next 3 months (through the Christmas Concert) and likes it, you can continue to "rent-to-own" an instrument or I can assist you in locating an instrument to purchase that will fit your budget - there are used instruments available to fit almost any budget and which are a fraction of the cost ("list price") of new instruments if you know where to look and what to look for (which I will be happy to help you with).

I highly recommend purchasing a folding music stand for your child to use when they play their instrument at home (this would be kept at home since we have music stands at school). Folding music stands are inexpensive and help your child to avoid developing bad posture habits. While you do not need to hover over your child when they play their instrument at home, keep an open ear to what they are doing, compliment them, let them know that you are interested in what they are doing and support their endeavor to learn a musical instrument. Remember, no one's opinion means more to your child than yours. I realize that today's kids have much busier lives than those children of past decades. Therefore I have refined my teaching methods over the years to allow students to find success on their instrument and to develop good sounding school bands even if students only have a little bit of time to practice their instrument at home. Practicing the instrument at home for 3 days a week for 10 minutes each is generally enough for students to keep up with the band program at school (and they may discover that they like it so much that they end up practicing more than that modest amount).

If you are concerned about the band instructional tuition that is charged during the school year, please know that the cost breaks down to approximately \$16 a week which is payable in monthly installments of \$56 each from September to May. Parents have the option to withdraw their child from the program at the end of the 1st semester should their child not wish to continue in band. Considering that music stores and other sources of instrument lessons typically charge anywhere from \$17 to over \$22+ per week (\$68 to \$88+ a month) for one weekly 30 minute instrument lesson, the school band program is a bargain in that the students not only receive a weekly instrument lesson, they also receive a weekly Full Band rehearsal plus concert performance experiences (not to mention the convenience of this being held during regular school hours).

To register your child for the 2010-11 band program classes, please follow the instructions on the "*Band Program Registration Instructions*" page included in this information packet. Beginning Band classes are on Wednesdays (starting 9/15). Giving your child the opportunity to learn to play an instrument in the school band can be a priceless gift that can last a lifetime! If you have any questions, please leave a message for me with the school office or email me at fadams@gesu.com (I check my email daily). I'm looking forward to continuing to work with the wonderful students at Gesu School and I thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Gesú School Band Director

Here are some additional facts about how the band program is set up:

- The band program at Gesu School is operated under the auspices of MusicAlliance, a non-profit organization which provides quality band programs and state licensed teachers to 31 parochial schools throughout northeast Ohio. (The schools themselves are not charged for the services that MusicAlliance provides, nor do they subsidize MusicAlliance.)
- The band program at Gesu currently consists of 3 levels: Beginning Band, Intermediate Band, and Advanced Band, and I am adding a 6th-8th grade jazz-rock band this school year.
- During small group lessons, your child will learn about the care and handling of their instrument, how to read music, and proper playing technique. Students will learn to play a wide variety of music from various time periods, styles, and cultures. The bands perform an evening Winter concert in December and an evening Spring concert in May. The students will also perform the same concerts for the student body at Gesu. As students progress through the band program, there are additional opportunities including the opportunity to compose a song and have it performed at a band concert (I am a published composer of band music and I like to encourage my students to try their hand at creating their own songs), voluntary solo/small ensemble recitals, band festivals, and an excellent parochial school honor band program offered through MusicAlliance.

SOME BACKGROUND AND A BRIEF BIO FROM BAND DIRECTOR – MR. FRANK ADAMS:

While this is only my 2nd year at Gesu, I have taught band in the northeast Ohio for many years. I am trained and qualified to teach each of the instruments that make up the band program and have 21 successful years of experience in doing so. I have a B.A. degree in Music Education, I am licensed by the Ohio Department of Education, I'm a member of MENC (Music Educators National Conference) and OMEA (Ohio Music Education Association), and I am Virtus trained.

I have taught band at St Gabriel School (in Lake County) for the past 17 years. Under my direction, the St. Gabriel School band program experienced nearly 10 straight years of growth - going from the 20 students that I inherited when I started there in 1993 to a high of 179 band members. With so many students being in band there, I was able to expand the program to 5 bands: a 4th Grade Band, a 5th Grade Band, a 6th Grade Band, a Junior High Concert Band, and a Junior High Jazz Band (which plays each year at the Lakeland Jazz Festival and has performed at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame for the past 3 years). I have now handed off a large portion of the band program at St. Gabriel to another teacher (I am still director of the Junior High Jazz Band there) because at this point in my teaching career I really wanted to take on the challenge of building up the band program at Gesu. My goal is to help the Gesu band program continue to grow in numbers and quality, and I am counting on your support in this endeavor. Together we can establish a tradition of excellence with the Gesu bands, and make the band program a truly special musical experience that will be a real asset to the school community for many years to come.

In addition to my teaching duties, I developed and maintain the website for the music education organization MusicAlliance and serve as the "tech guru" for the organization. I am a coordinator for the MusicAlliance Honor Band Programs (which involve students from over 20 different Catholic schools), and I serve as a co-director of the MusicAlliance Summer Honors Band 1, MusicAlliance Christmas Honor Band, and MusicAlliance Honor Jazz Band. In 2005, I founded "Phresh Phusion" a high school jazz ensemble that featured students from a variety of northeast Ohio high schools. I have also served as the Basketball Pep Band director for Lake Erie College, and have performed with the Crooked River Concert Band, the Euclid Orchestral Winds (a Concert Band), and the Tri-C Civic Band. In addition to being a music educator, I am also a nationally published composer of music for school bands. One of my compositions was performed in Los Angeles at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts and at Disneyland. I have written songs for solo piano, jazz ensemble, and concert band. I like to involve my band students in my music composition projects (they get to try out new songs that I have written before I send them off to publishers and sometimes give the "world premiere" performance of new compositions). I encourage students to try composing their own music (and if a student comes up with a good song idea, I help them to adapt it for the school band and we perform it in concert).

In my spare time, I love working on computers, playing the piano, listening to music (my favorite pop band is Chicago), walking and bicycling in the metroparks, watching science fiction television shows and movies (Star Trek is my favorite), and trying to keep up with my highly energetic Jack Russell Terrier "Daisy".

Why enroll your child in Band?

Because Music Education...

- develops skills needed by the 21st century workforce: critical thinking, creative problem solving, effective communication, teamwork and more
- keeps students engaged in school and less likely to drop out
- helps student achieve in other academic subjects like math, science, and reading
- helps communities share ideas and values among cultures and generations
- is a disciplined human endeavor with intrinsic value to society

“When a child learns music it is much more than notes and scales; they discover themselves... it challenges you with creativity and demands self-discipline.” – Student, Age 20, Van Nuys, CA

Benefits of Music Study

Quality of Life

- **During moments of musical euphoria, blood travels through the brain to areas where other stimuli can produce feelings of contentment and joy—and travels away from brain cell areas associated with depression and fear.** Dr. Frederick Tims, reported in AMC Music News, June 2, 1999
- **A Columbia University study revealed that students in the arts are found to be more cooperative with teachers and peers, more self-confident and better able to express their ideas. These benefits exist across socioeconomic levels.** The Arts Education Partnership, 1999
- **Students who participate in school band or orchestra have the lowest levels of current and lifelong use of alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs among any group in our society.**
Concurrent. Res. 266, United States House of Representatives, June 13, 2000
- **With music in schools, students connect to each other better...greater camaraderie, fewer fights, less racism and reduced use of hurtful sarcasm.** Eric Jensen, Arts With the Brain in Mind, 2001
- **College-age musicians are emotionally healthier than their non-musician counterparts for performance anxiety, emotional concerns, and alcohol-related problems.** Houston Chronicle, January 22, 1998

Life Skills

- **Arts involvement teaches children many skills necessary to succeed in life, including problem solving and decision making, building self-confidence and self-discipline, the ability to imagine what might be and to accept responsibility for it, teamwork, the development of informed perception, and articulating a vision.** Music for All Foundation - compiled from various research documents and reports
- **Music majors are the most likely group of college grads to be admitted to medical school.**
Lewis Thomas, Case for Music in the Schools, Phi Delta Kappa, 1994
- **The foremost technical designers and engineers in Silicon Valley are almost all practicing musicians.** Dee Dickinson, Music and the Mind, 1993

“Music programs give kids the idea that they can make something of themselves ... it takes a great deal of work to learn the art of musicianship ...music is complex in its own nature; it is diverse, and that is what this country stands for ...” – Student, Age 13, Thorton, TX

Student Performance

- **The College Entrance Examination Board found that students involved in school music programs scored 107 points higher on the SAT's than students with no participation.**

Profiles of SAT & Achievement Test Takers, The College Board, compiled by the Music Educators National Conference (2002)

- **U.S. Department of Education data on more than 25,000 secondary school students found that students who report consistent high levels of involvement in instrumental music over the middle and high school years show "significantly higher levels of mathematics proficiency by grade 12."** U.S. Department of Education NELL88 Database

Scientific Research

- **A research team reports that early music training dramatically enhancing children's abstract reasoning skills. These findings indicate that music uniquely enhances higher brain functions required for mathematics, chess, science and engineering.**

From Neurological Research, Feb 28, 1997; Frances Rauscher, Ph.D., Gordon Shaw, Ph.D, University of California, Irvine

- **A 2 year Swiss study involving 1,200 children in 50 schools showed that students involved in the music program were better at languages, learned to read more easily, showed an improved social climate, showed more enjoyment in school, & had a lower level of stress than non-music students.** Weber, E.W., Spychiger, M. & Patry, J.L. (1993)

- **Music enhances the process of learning. The systems they nourish, which include our integrated sensory, attention, cognitive, emotional and motor capacities, are shown to be the driving forces behind all other learning.** Konrad, R.R., Empathy, Arts and Social Studies, 2000

- **Students who were exposed to music-based lessons scored a full 100% higher on fractions tests than those who learned in the conventional manner.** Neurological Research, March 15, 1999

- **A study of 7,500 university students revealed that music majors scored the highest reading scores among all majors including English, biology, chemistry and math.**

The Case for Music in the Schools, Phi Delta Kappa, 1994

- **Students of lower socioeconomic status who took music lessons in grades 8–12 increased their math scores significantly as compared to non-music students. But just as important, reading, history, geography and even social skills soared by 40%.**

Gardiner, Fox, Jeffrey and Knowles, Nature, May 23, 1996

- **A study by Dr. Glenn Schellenberg, funded by the International Foundation for Music Research and discussed in Psychological Science magazine, examined the influence of music education on non-musical abilities, the effects of music lessons on academic performance and the development of information-processing and cognitive abilities. In what can be considered breakthrough research, the study has revealed that students who participated in music lessons showed statistically higher IQs (intelligence quotas).** International Foundation for Music Research, June 2004

"Music is more than entertainment. Music is art. Music is skill. Music is practice. Music is life."
– Student, Age 15, St. Louis, MO

"Music...has a little something more - Happiness... Seems like every time I start a song, I put everything behind me. Then there's happiness... It just takes you away. Takes you to a far away place. Takes you to a place where there's no fighting, no wars, no worries, no fear. Just true happiness."
– Student, Age 12, Euclid, OH

MusicAlliance

BAND PROGRAM REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

MusicAlliance Office Phone: 440-205-0114 Email: office@musicallianceinc.org Website: www.musicallianceinc.org

Dear Parent,

We are pleased to offer the MusicAlliance Band Program at your school. There are many life enhancing benefits that can be gained through learning to play an instrument in the school band. Band program registration and tuition payment is done through secure online registration and a convenient Auto-Pay Monthly Installment Plan (by credit card or electronic check) for the payment of the band tuition. We encourage parents to utilize the electronic check option as it significantly reduces the processing fees that MusicAlliance pays.

The monthly band tuition payment installments will be \$56 each (per child registered).

The first installment of \$56 (per child registered) will be processed upon completion of the secure online registration form. The remaining monthly installments of \$56 each (per child registered) will be automatically charged to your credit card or checking account on the 10th of each month from October 2010 (2nd installment) through May 2011 (final installment). The band lesson tuition is based on a minimum of at least 29 band lesson instructional days offered at your child's school. *Please note that by registering your child/children for the band program, you are making a semester by semester commitment (meaning that once band instruction begins in any given semester, your child is expected to commit to participating in the program for that semester, and you are committing to pay the band tuition). There is a minimum required commitment of one semester (through the January installment payment). After your child/children has/have completed the 1st semester of band instruction, you have the option to withdraw your child/children from the band program by notifying the MusicAlliance office by January 21st, 2011. If your child/children continue(s) to participate in the band program beyond January 21st, 2011, you will then be making a commitment that your child/children will stay in the band program for the remainder of the 2010-11 school year, and you will be making a commitment to pay the February through May installment payments.*

To register your child/children for the band program, please go to www.musicallianceinc.org and click on the registration link where you will be transferred to a secure website to submit your information. Please register prior to the scheduled start of band instruction. If you do not have Internet access or if you have any questions, please call MusicAlliance at 440-205-0114. Please note that for the 2010-11 school year, families who are registering 3 children for the MusicAlliance band program will receive a \$100 discount off of their total band program tuition. Families who have 4 or more children in their family that are being registered for the MusicAlliance band program *this school year* will only be charged regular band tuition for the first 3 children. PLEASE NOTE: *If you have 4 or more children that you are registering for band, please call the MusicAlliance office at 440-205-0114 for special registration instructions.*

Thank you for taking advantage of this opportunity to enrich your child's education and their creative, cognitive, and emotional development through the musical arts.

Sincerely,

The MusicAlliance Staff

SPECIAL NOTES: Thanks to last years fundraisers we are able to offer a limited number of reduced-tuition scholarships for those in financial need. Please contact your band director or the MusicAlliance office if you would like an application, or you can download the form as a pdf by visiting www.musicallianceinc.org/scholarship.html



Thanks to a grant from the D'Addario foundation we have been able to buy a limited number of instruments that can be rented from us for a reduced fee for families in need. Please contact your band director or the MusicAlliance office if you would like an application, or download the form by visiting www.musicallianceinc.org/instrument.html

SPECIAL \$30 DISCOUNT OPPORTUNITY: For those who are interested, MusicAlliance is offering a voluntary fundraising opportunity that can be used to reduce your band tuition. The fundraising opportunity is to obtain a monetary donation of \$100 or greater for MusicAlliance from a local business. MusicAlliance is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, so monetary donations are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Businesses who make a donation to MusicAlliance will be acknowledged and listed by giving level for one year in the concert programs of the 31 schools that we serve and in the concert programs of the regional honor bands that we operate. Band parents will receive a \$30 band tuition credit for each \$100 in monetary business donations obtained (which can be applied to the band tuition installment of your choice). You can download the Business Donation materials as a printable pdf file by visiting www.musicallianceinc.org/fundraiser.html If you do not have Internet access, you can obtain the materials by contacting your child's band director or the MusicAlliance office (440-205-0114).