

# **ALLOWAY CREEK INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL THE FOURTH GRADE BAND PROGRAM**

**Littlestown Area School District**

James Sterner, Director

## **Who can participate?**

The program is open to any fourth grade student.

## **How do we get an instrument?**

Instruments can be obtained in any of the following manners:

- 1) Rental or purchase from local music stores.
- 2) Private purchase
- 3) Loan or gift from family or friends
- 4) School instrument (a limited number of specialized and larger instruments are available by asking Mr. Sterner, the band director)

## **What instrument should my son or daughter play?**

The best choice is usually the instrument that the student prefers to play. This is a sound that they are fond of and will contribute to their initial success. However, the instrument preference test that was administered last spring may be used as a guide for the undecided student.

## **How much should they practice?**

It is recommended that a student play their instrument for a minimum of 10 minutes each day. More than that amount is ENCOURAGED!

## **When do we bring instruments for lessons?**

The lessons are in the Alloway Creek music room. Each student will receive 30 minutes of weekly instruction in groups of like instruments. There is a schedule posted in the classrooms of the lessons and their rotation. This schedule has been designed to be held pre-school which will minimize missing class time while still providing quality instruction on their instrument.

## **Is there a “full band practice”?**

Several weeks **after beginning the instrument**, we will begin meeting on Friday mornings before school for a “FULL BAND PRACTICE”. Special arrangements will be made with the transportation department for the students to ride on an earlier bus so that we may begin our practice at 8 AM. Practice will conclude by 8:45 to allow the students to begin their normal instructional day.

## **What book do I need?**

Our first book is “**STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE**” and is available at local music stores or at the rental evening at the school.

## **Where do I keep my instrument?**

Classroom teachers will work with the students to store their instruments in a safe and orderly manner within the classroom. Instruments should not be left in the school overnight without special permission from the classroom teacher or Mr. Sterner.

**(Over)**

**When do lessons begin?**

Lessons will begin on the **Monday September 14**. Refer to the schedule in the classroom for the correct day to bring your instrument.

**Can I be in sports and band?**

YES!!! Our school program is specially designed to allow for participation in sports and band.

**Can I change instruments?**

It is usually not necessary or desirable to change instruments. When it is viewed as necessary by the instructor, the music stores will work with you to exchange instruments. No changes should be made without prior contact with your school band instructor.

**How much instructional time is available to my son or daughter?**

One 30 minute sectional each week made up of like instruments and one 40 minute combined band period are required of each member. Additionally, a summer lesson program and listing of private instructors outside of the school is available from the director.

**When can I put my instrument together?**

The first sectional period will be spent on the correct assembly of the instrument and producing a first sound. It is recommended that each student wait until the first lesson to assemble their instrument for the first time.

**Do we get to perform "in concert" this year?**

YES!! We will perform for the first time as a part of the *4<sup>TH</sup> & 5<sup>TH</sup> Grade Spring Band Concert* at the Intermediate School in May 2010.

**What school owned instruments are available?**

The school has a very limited supply of specialized instruments including trombone, baritone, french horn and tuba. Those using school owned instruments are asked to supply the book, music stand and related supplies. There is no charge for the use of the instrument itself.

**HELP! I am having problems!**

The band director is available to answer questions by contacting the school at: **359-4146 (x-2268) 9:00 AM** is a good time to reach me. Often I cannot answer the phone due to class instruction responsibilities. PLEASE leave a message and your call will be returned. For your convenience, I am also available by e-mail at **sternerj@lasd.k12.pa.us**.