

September 2018

Dear St. Bridget School parent:

Your child has shown an interest in instrumental music study and joining the school band. Below is some start up information as imparted at the parent meeting.

GETTING STARTED: Your child will begin lessons and band on **Thursday, September 6th**. If at all possible, please obtain your child's instrument, accessories and books by then. Even if your child does not yet have their instrument, send them to class that first week to observe. **There will be a very informative open house class for first year families on Thursday, November 8th from 6:00-7:00 p.m.** Please plan to attend along with your child to see the curriculum in action, learn how to help your child and learn how to practice for success in order to progress with the class.

ENROLLMENT/TUITION: Please refer to the *Future Musicians* enrollment form for tuition amounts and payment options. Please choose a payment plan and **mail** the enrollment form, along with your first payment and registration fee to the Future Musicians office or have your child bring it into school on September 6th. It is important for all new students to be enrolled by September 13th.

LESSONS/BAND: Upon enrolling your child in the Future Musicians band program at St. Bridget School, your child will receive a 30 minute small group lesson each **Thursday during school** on a rotational schedule, as per the archdiocesan school office. This is to minimize time out of class for any single subject. In addition, Cadet Band for your child will meet **during the lunch/recess wave each Thursday**. Your child will participate in the Christmas Concert on **December 19th** (snow date 12/20) and the Spring concert on **May 15th**.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Your child will need an *instrument* and the appropriate accessories. For the reasons stated at the meeting, you are strongly encouraged to **rent** an instrument to begin. The core band instruments which we encourage students to learn first and foremost are trombone, clarinet and trumpet. These are the most needed and helpful to the success of the band. Percussionists will need a *percussion kit* with bells and snare drum. The recommended dealer for our school is **Music and Arts**. Music and Arts has a number of locations throughout Connecticut. The closest location to St. Bridget's is "**Acme Music**". They are located at 100 Elm St. in the "Watch Factory Shoppes". You may obtain an instrument elsewhere but **BE CAREFUL**. It is important to obtain your instrument at a reliable music store. We do not recommend purchasing an instrument online. If you obtain a used instrument, you may get an appraisal at Music and Arts or bring it into school to show me and I will make a recommendation as to its playing condition. If in doubt about the quality of an instrument, please ask. When it comes to musical instruments, you get what you pay for. Please refer to the **ACCESSORIES NEEDED** sheet to determine the items that your child needs to accompany and/or care for their instrument. Clarinet and saxophone students need a box of Rico brand #2 strength reeds. All students on every instrument need the **Ed Sueta Band Method (book 1)**. Percussionists will need both the **Ed Sueta Mallet Percussion book 1** and the **John Kinyon Breeze Method book 1 for drums**.

SPECIAL BOOK REQUEST: Not mentioned at the June meeting: If at all possible, please purchase the book "**Home Helper**" for your child's chosen instrument, i.e.: "Do It! Clarinet Home Helper", "Do It! Percussion Home Helper", etc. This is a perfect instructional manual for those crucial first few weeks of lessons. Packed with pages of photos and checklists, the book enables the parent to easily assist their child and evaluate progress during home practice sessions. It is available for purchase at **www.giamusic.com**.

COMMUNICATION: My preferred method of communication is e mail at **beverly_brwn@Yahoo.com**. I usually check e mails early morning and late evening each day. I do not have e mail access during the school day while teaching and traveling (between 6 a.m.-5 p.m.). If you have an immediate concern, you may call the school on your child's lesson day or, if necessary, my cell phone at (860) 214-8059.

Sincerely,
Beverly Brown, CT Future Musicians Band Instructor