

Just a Few Notes

Dates to Remember:

Choir Step-up Night
Mon. Feb. 2

1st trip payment due
Fri. Feb. 6

Booster Meeting
Tues. Feb. 17

Jazz Coffee House
Fri. Feb. 20

Solo & Ensemble
Sat. Feb. 21

After School Choir
Mon. Feb. 23

Market Day
Wed. Feb. 25

Choir Clinic
Tues. Mar. 3

MJH March Concert
Wed. Mar. 4

MIS March Concert
Thurs. Mar. 5

Final trip payment
Mon. Mar. 9

Band Clinic
Mon. Mar. 9

District Contest
Sat. Mar. 14

Mokena Music Department (708)342-4870

Solo & Ensemble Contest

Mokena music students will be participating in the annual IGSMA Solo and Ensemble contest on Saturday, February 21st. This year contest will be held at Liberty Junior High in New Lenox. Schedules for the day will be made available as soon as possible.

On contest day, plan on arriving at Liberty one half hour before your child is scheduled to perform. This will allow your child ample time to warm-up and find his or her performance room.

Ten minutes before your child is scheduled to perform, move from the warm-up room to the performance room.

When it is your child's turn to perform, he or she will enter the performance room. Friends and family are allowed in the

performance room. However, if a student performer does not want an audience, he or she is permitted to clear the room.

Upon entering the performance room, the student performer should give his or her original copy to the judge. Then the student performer should tune with his or her accompanist or ensemble partner. When the judge is ready, he or she will ask the performer to begin.

At the conclusion of the performance, the judge will finish scoring the performance and will hand the student a rating card. The judge will also return the original copy at this time. Once the student has been given the rating card, proceed to the medal room to collect any medals or ribbons that have been awarded.

Contest Prep Reminders:

- Have an original copy
- Number your original copy
- Get a good a night's sleep
- Be sure to tell your accompanist what time you will be performing
- Review your scales/rudiments
- Be sure your instrument is in good working order and that you have extra reeds

Contest Day Reminders:

- Arrive 30 min. early
- Find your performance room when you arrive
- Warm-up and tune
- Drink plenty of water
- Don't wear anything that says "Mokena"
- Dress nicely, no denim, athletic ware, or gym shoes
- Don't wear medals during performances

After School Choir Practices

The Singing Meteors will hold after school choir practices on the following dates:

Monday, February 23rd
2:30-3:30 PM
Tuesday, March 3rd
2:30-3:45 pm*

**Please note that, as the March 3rd rehearsal is with our clinician it will last 15 minutes longer than a typical after school rehearsal.*

As always, attendance at these rehearsals is mandatory. Unexcused absences will result in suspension from the March Concert and District Contest.



Clinicians to Visit MJH

On Saturday, March 14th the Symphonic Band and Singing Meteors will be traveling to Minooka for the annual District Band and Choir competition. To help prepare the groups for this performance, MJH is bringing in a clinician to work with each group.

Both clinicians are experienced directors from the Chicago-land area. They will be working

with the students on how to perfect their contest performances.

Mr. Bob Boyd of Northwestern University will be working with the Singing Meteors after school on Tuesday, March 3rd from 2:30 to 3:45 PM.

Mr. Robert Evans of Homewood-Flossmoor High School will be working with the

Symphonic Band on Monday, March 9th from 4:00-6:00 PM.

Both clinics will take place in the MJH Band room.

These clinics are very important to contest preparation. Please be sure to check your student's calendar now. In order for this to be a successful experience, **ALL** students must attend.

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Music at Lincoln-Way East

On Monday, January 26th 8th grade band students participated in 8th grade step-up with the Lincoln-Way East band program. Students participated in a rehearsal and a performance with the LWE Wind Ensemble. They also had a question and answer session with the high school directors.

On Monday, February 2nd, 8th grade choir students will participate in a similar event with the high school choir program. They too

will perform with the high school group and participate in a question and answer session with the high school directors.

LWE Open House for incoming freshmen will be held on Thursday, February 5th. The LWE music department will be at the open house to answer any questions your student might have about participating in the music program in high school. Please take the time to stop by and meet

the directors.

If you are unable to attend the open house, but have questions, please contact the LWE directors.

Band

Mr. Clif Smith
csmith@lw210.org
(815) 464-4345

Mr. Cary Ruclik
cruklic@lw210.org
(815) 464-4345

Choir

Mrs. Alysia Lambert
alambert@lw210.org
(815) 464-4063

Jazz Coffeehouse on Feb. 20th

The second Jazz Coffeehouse of the year will be held in the MJH East Gym at 7:00 PM on Friday, February 20th. In addition to performances by the three MJH Jazz Bands, we will also be featuring many of our solo and ensemble participants.

As always, the coffeehouse performance is open to the public and refreshments will be served.

Jazz students are to arrive at 6:15 PM wearing nice clothes. No denim, athletic ware, or gym shoes, please. Students are

asked to bring a snack when they arrive. More details on this will be provided closer to the event.

As always, friends and family are encouraged to attend our performance.

Band & Choir to Attend District Contest

The Singing Meteors and the Symphonic Band will be participating in the Illinois Grade School Music Association's annual district contest on Saturday, March 14th. This competition is very similar to solo and ensemble contest in that the groups are not competing against other schools, but will receive a rating of first, second, or third place.

Both groups will perform three pieces before a panel of three judges.

Each of the judges will make written comments on the performance and will then give a score. The three scores are averaged together to create the final score which will, in turn, determine which ranking each group will receive.

It is extremely important that every member of both groups is present at the contest performance to ensure that each group gives the best performance possible. Preparation for this contest

began immediately upon our return from Winter Break. Every member is important to our overall success.

Family and friends are invited to come and support the students by attending their contest performances. This year contest will take place at Minooka Junior High School. We do not have definite performance times just yet, but will make all of this information available as soon as possible.



Symphonic Band Trip to St. Louis – May 8th & 9th

Symphonic Band Trip to St. Louis

The Symphonic Band's trip to St. Louis is rapidly approaching. This trip will take place on May 8th & 9th.

The first payment for this trip is due Friday, February 6th. The amount of this payment is \$179. Please make checks payable to the Mokena Music Boosters. All payments can be turned in to the MJH main office.

The final payment will be due on Monday, March

9th, 2009. The definite amount of this payment is not yet known as the travel agent does not lock in a definite price on some of the last minute items until the end of February. The amount of the final payment will be very similar to that of the first and will be made available as soon as possible.

The Music Boosters will be sponsoring a T-shirt design contest for all students who will be attending the St. Louis

trip. The winning design will be printed on all of the t-shirts the group will wear on the second day of our trip. Please encourage your student to submit a design for this contest. All designs must be submitted on an 8 ½ x 11 sheet of white paper and must be outlined in black. Each design must contain the following:

- school name
- band name
- year of trip
- destination

News from Boosters - 2009-2010 Band Information

It's hard to believe that the music department is busy planning for the 2009-2010 school year while there is still snow on the ground, but advance planning is crucial to the success of the department.

With that in mind, all parents should be looking for the band registration packet that will be handed

out at the Spring concert and should be completed and returned to school by Friday, May 15th. There will be detailed information regarding Summer Band, Marching Band Camp, Cadet Band, and Meteor Bands.

Please read the information clearly. If your student is entering fifth

grade, they will be in Cadet Band. Cadet Band students are required to purchase the band polo shirt, but are not required to pay the uniform fee. If your student is entering sixth, seventh, or eighth grade, regardless of their involvement in Marching Band, they will need a uniform, and will be

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Contact Information

Mrs. Jessica Maffia
Mokena Junior High School
19815 Kirkstone Way
Mokena, IL 60448
708-342-4870
maffiaj@mokena159.org

Ms. Rebecca Rodey
Mokena Junior High School
19815 Kirkstone Way
Mokena, IL 60448
708-342-4870
rodeyr@mokena159.org

Ms. Jennifer Thomas
Mokena Elementary School
11244 Willowcrest Lane
Mokena, IL 60448
708-342-4850
thomasj@mokena159.org

News from Boosters - 2009-2010 Band Information

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required to pay the uniform fee. All sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students will need to attend a mandatory uniform measuring and fitting session on one of the dates listed on the schedule in your packet. If your student is ONLY participating in Jazz Band, they are not required to purchase a polo shirt or uniform. For students

participating in Summer Band, they will wear their polo shirts and black pants, black socks and black shoes for the Fourth of July parade.

The Music Booster fee applies to all band students. Hopefully this information will clear up any questions you may have. As always we are available to answer any

additional questions that you are curious about. The next Music Booster meeting is Tuesday, February 17th, 7 p.m., in the library at the Junior High. Come and see what is going on with the Music Department, we'd love to see you.

-Shirlie Hansen
Music Booster
Vice President

How to Practice

We all know that it is important for students to practice their musical skills at home if they want to succeed on their instrument of choice. However, often times students struggle because they are not sure of the best way to spend their practice time. Below you will find some guidelines for practicing. Please go over these with your child.

1) ESTABLISH QUIET TIME

Practice in a room with no distractions. This means no TV, no radio, no computer, and no other people around. Practice without interruptions. No talking on the phone, no Internet, and no texting

2) PREPARE YOURSELF AND YOUR SPACE

Use the restroom before you start practicing. Get a

glass of water to bring into your practice room. Be sure you have sharpened pencils.

3) WARM-UP

Spend some time doing warm-up exercises from your method book or private lesson teacher.

4) DECIDE WHAT YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH

Set a goal for yourself. What would you like to be able to do by the end of your practice time? Remember your goal as you continue to practice.

5) LEAVE TIME FOR SOME FUN

Practicing and playing music should be fun. End your practice time playing one of your favorite songs. If you would like to learn a song that you do not have music for, ask your band director or private lesson

teacher.

6) IMPROVISE

One of the best things about learning to play a music instrument is getting a chance to be creative. You don't always have to play music someone else wrote. Take a few minutes and make up something of your own.

7) PRACTICE, NOT PERFORM

Finally, remember there is a difference between practicing and performing. When you perform you play straight through a song from beginning to end. When you practice, you work to IMPROVE the way you play a song. You may have to play a section many times to achieve your goals.

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