

# Just a Few Notes

Mokena Music Department (708)342-4870

## Band & Choir to Participate in Contest

The Symphonic Band and Singing Meteors will be traveling to Minooka Junior High on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> to participate in the annual Illinois Grade School Music Association's district band

and choir contest.

It is extremely important that all members attend district contest. The success of the group is dependant upon every student being a part of the performance.

Parents are invited to come support the students by watching our contest performances.

A schedule of events can be found below:

### IGSMA District Contest Timeline

- 11:00 AM** **Symphonic Band students arrive at MJH**  
At this time all Symphonic Band students will arrive at MJH with their black shoes, black socks, and plain white t-shirt (NO WRITING ON THE SHIRTS!). Students will change into their band uniforms.
- 11:15 AM** **Singing Meteor students arrive at MJH**  
At this time all Singing Meteors will arrive at MJH wearing black shoes, black socks, and a nice white shirt. (T-shirts are acceptable for **BAND STUDENTS ONLY** as they must wear their uniform over their shirt.)
- 11:30 AM** **Load Trailer**  
Symphonic Band students will load their equipment onto the trailer.
- 11:45: AM** **Buses Depart from MJH**  
Students will load the buses and depart for Minooka Junior High.
- 12:40 PM** **Arrive at Minooka**  
**1:15-1:35 PM** **Choir Warm-Up**  
**1:40-2:00 PM** **Choir Performance**  
Symphonic Band students who are not choir members are expected to lend their support to the Singing Meteors by attending their performance.
- 2:35-3:05 PM** **Band Warm-Up**  
**3:10-3:30 PM** **Band Performance**  
Singing Meteor students who are not band members are expected to lend their support to the Symphonic Band by attending their performance.
- 3:45 PM** **Depart form Minooka**  
**4:30 PM** **Arrive at MJH**  
Students will be dismissed after all uniforms are properly put away and all equipment has been unloaded and put away.

Dates to  
Remember

Tues. Mar. 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Choir Clinic

Wed. Mar. 4<sup>th</sup>  
MJH Concert

Thurs. Mar. 5<sup>th</sup>  
MIS Concert

Mon. Mar. 9<sup>th</sup>  
Band Clinic

Mon. Mar. 9<sup>th</sup>  
LWE Audition  
Help

Mon. Mar. 9<sup>th</sup>  
Final Trip  
Payment Due

Fri. Mar. 13<sup>th</sup>  
MJH Assembly

Sat. Mar. 14<sup>th</sup>  
District Contest

Mon. Mar. 16<sup>th</sup>  
LWE Audition  
Help

Mon. Mar. 23<sup>rd</sup>  
LWE Audition  
Help

Tues. Mar. 24<sup>th</sup>  
Booster Meeting

Wed. Mar. 25<sup>th</sup>  
Market Day

Thurs. Mar. 26<sup>th</sup>  
Student vs. Staff

Fri. Mar. 27<sup>th</sup>  
IPO Slips Due

Mon. Mar. 30<sup>th</sup>  
LWE Audition



Final Payment for St. Louis Trip due March 9<sup>th</sup>! Look for more details soon!

## March Melodies Concerts

March brings our third concert of the year at both MIS and MJH.

The MJH March Melodies concert will be held on Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the MJH West Gym. This performance will include the Concert Band, Symphonic Band and Singing Meteors.

MJH students are to arrive

at 6:30 PM. Band students must have black shoes, black socks, and a plain, white t-shirt. Choir students must have black shoes, black socks, black pants and a nice white shirt.

MJH Percussion students are to arrive at 6:15 to aid in set-up.

The MIS March Melodies

concert will be held on Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the MIS North Gym.

MIS students are to arrive at 6:00 PM. Cadet Band students will wear black shoes, black socks, black pants, and their gray Meteor Bands shirt. Beginning Band students will wear nice clothes.

*"March brings our third concert of the year at both MIS and MJH."*

## Clinicians to work with MJH students

As stated in the February newsletter, the students of the Singing Meteors and the Symphonic Band have the great honor of working with two excellent music educators in preparation for our upcoming contest.

Mr. Bob Boyd of Northwestern University will be working with the Singing Meteors. Previous to joining the staff at NU Mr. Boyd worked for many years as head of the choral program at Lyons Township High School. Mr. Boyd is a well-respected and sought

after clinician throughout the country and has worked with many different honors and festival ensembles.

Mr. Robert Evans of Homewood-Flossmoor High School will be working with the Symphonic Band. Mr. Evans is currently head of the instrumental music program at H-F. Previous to this position, Mr. Evans held the same position at LaSalle-Peru Township High School. Under Mr. Evans, both programs have experienced

consistent Division I ratings and have traveled both in the U.S. and overseas.

Both clinics will be held in the MJH band room. Details are as follows:

Singing Meteors Clinic  
Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>  
2:30-3:45 PM

Symphonic Band Clinic  
Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>  
4:00-6:00 PM

## Field Trip for 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Students

The 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade band students will be attending a concert of the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra on the morning of Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>.

We will depart just prior to 9:00 AM. We should return by 11:00 AM.

The theme for this year's IPO concert is "Circus of Sound." Students will hear many pieces inspired by animals and the circus.

Permission slips for this exciting event will be sent home on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. They are due back to your

child's director by Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>.

Admission to this concert has been purchased for each band student by the Mokena Music Boosters. Thank you, Boosters!



## Solo & Ensemble Contest Results

The directors of the Mokena Public Schools music program are very proud of the extremely successful day our students had at the recent Solo and Ensemble contest.

Below are results from that contest:

### MIS Soloists

28 Division I Ratings  
3 Division II Ratings

### MIS Ensembles

8 Division I Ratings  
4 Division II Ratings

### MJH Soloists

47 Division I Ratings  
20 Division II Ratings

### MJH Ensembles

13 Division I Ratings  
12 Division II Ratings  
3 Division III Ratings

Congratulations to all of the students who participated in Solo and Ensemble contest. We are very proud of you all!

## Student vs. Staff Basketball Game

The MJH Student Council will once again be sponsoring the annual Student vs. Staff basketball game on Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. The Meteor Jazz Bands have again been invited to become a pep band for the evening and provide music throughout the event.

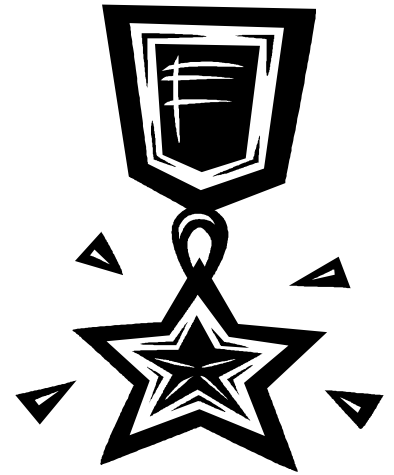
Due to the large number of participants in our jazz program, this opportunity is available to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>

grade jazz band students only. We have a limited amount of space in the bleachers for the performance. If we cannot cover all of the parts with the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be asked to fill in on missing parts.

This is an optional event for all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade jazz band students. There will be a signup sheet posted outside of the band room. Interested students are asked to sign up.

Students who participate will stay after school on the day of the game to rehearse. We will take a break for dinner. Food will be provided by the music boosters.

Students will also be given a break to work on homework as the event does not typically end until 8:00 PM.



## MJH Music Groups to Perform at Assembly

Due to the power outage before break, the MJH music department was unable to perform at our annual Winter Assembly for the staff and students. The directors and students were greatly disappointed by this as it is an event we greatly look forward to each December.

We were happy to discover that the staff and students were just as disappointed as we were!

As a result, the MJH administration has asked the music department to perform at an assembly being held to celebrate the end of ISAT testing. This assembly will be held after lunch on Friday, March

13<sup>th</sup>. The performance will conclude before the end of the school day.

In addition to being a great way to celebrate the end of two weeks of ISAT testing, this will be an excellent dress rehearsal for the Singing Meteors and Symphonic Band before their contest the next day.

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## Websites to Encourage Musical Growth

The internet can be an excellent source of music materials, performances, and activities. Internet experts recommend supervising your child whenever he/she is online. At the time of writing these websites, they are all working links and the content on these specific pages is appropriate for students. Due to frequent changes within websites, no guarantees can be promised regarding content within each site listed below. Take some time to check out the following websites with your child!



### Supporting Practice at Home

The beginning band book Essential Elements 2000 mp3 accompaniment files (the CD that comes with book only goes with #1-59 this website continues from #59-end)

<http://www.halleonard.com/EE2000AccompanimentsBrassWoods.jsp>

An online metronome to help keep the steady beat - [www.metronomeonline.com](http://www.metronomeonline.com)

### Online Performances to Enjoy

Although these sites are not the same as attending live performances, they are an excellent opportunity to experience a wide variety of music from home.

From the Top at Carnegie Hall – live performances by student musicians -

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/fromthetop/video/season-2/>

Kennedy Center Millennium Stage Archive (video performances) –

[http://www.kennedy-center.org/programs/millennium/archive\\_index.html](http://www.kennedy-center.org/programs/millennium/archive_index.html)

### Fun Websites with Activities to Explore

Jazz at Lincoln Center - [http://www.jalc.org/jazzED/j4yp\\_curr/](http://www.jalc.org/jazzED/j4yp_curr/)

PBS jazz website (designed for students) - <http://pbskids.org/jazz/>

New York Philharmonic - <http://www.nyphilkids.org/>

San Francisco Symphony - <http://www.sfskids.org>

Dallas Symphony Orchestra - [http://www.dsokids.com/2001/rooms/DSO\\_Intro.html](http://www.dsokids.com/2001/rooms/DSO_Intro.html)

Instrument Lab - <http://www.artsalive.ca/en/mus/instrumentlab/>

### Find out More about Music

Music Encyclopedia - <http://www.musiclopedia.com/>

Music Composers - [http://www.classicsforkids.com/composers/composers\\_atoz.asp](http://www.classicsforkids.com/composers/composers_atoz.asp)

### Music Reading Skills

Music Theory Practice - <http://www.musictheory.net/index.html>

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*"Summer band will be held  
Mondays through  
Thursdays beginning  
Monday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>."*

## Summer Band Dates Set

The Mokena Music Department will once again be sponsoring an optional summer band program for all incoming 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade band students. Participation in summer band is an excellent way to ensure that students will continue to build their skills over the summer. Students who do

not play during the summer find that it takes a long time to get back to their previous ability level in the fall.

Summer band will be held Mondays through Thursdays beginning Monday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>. The first two weeks of the program will focus on

preparing for the Mokena 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. All summer band students will participate in this parade.

Summer Band will conclude on Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup> with an evening concert held in the MJH West Gym.

## LWE Band Auditions

Lincoln-Way East will be holding auditions for all students who will be taking band as a class in the 2009-2010 school year. Auditions will be held on Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-9:00 PM in the LWE band room.

Interested students are to signup for an audition on the bulletin board outside of the MJH band room.

Audition music has been given to all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. This music is very challenging. Please

encourage your student to begin practicing immediately.

\*Percussion students can sign up for a practice room after school to practice the keyboard percussion portion of the audition.

To better aid students as they prepare for this important audition, Mrs. Maffia and Ms. Rodey will be available after school on the following days to work with students:

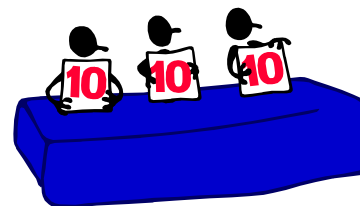
Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>  
2:30-3:00 PM

Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>  
2:30-3:30 PM

Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>  
2:30-3:30 PM

Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>  
2:30-3:30 PM

Interested students can signup on the bulletin board outside of the MJH band room.



## Booster News – Super Supporters

Thanks to those of you who regularly support our fund raising activities. We would like to recognize our top ordering family, The Daleys who have ordered \$842 from Market Day since the beginning of the school year. The Wikstrom, Schonwise, Richards, and Hedges families are close behind. Every order, big or small,

makes a world of difference to our Music Department. We appreciate all of your orders, and have been putting the money raised to good use.

Thanks to all the volunteers at our recent Jazz Coffee House. It seemed like things ran smoothly, and a good time was had by all. If you

would like to volunteer in some way, please call Cindy Hoyle at 708-479-4294. We are always looking for people to pitch in one way or another. Next month, we will be putting out the call for vacated Booster Board positions for the 2009-2010 school year.

### Contact Information

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## Summer Camps

Summer music camps are an excellent opportunity for students to better their own musicianship and to perform in a new environment. Many colleges and universities offer excellent summer music camp opportunities. Below are links to a few of these camps.

*University of Illinois*

<http://www.music.uiuc.edu/isym/>

*Lawrence University*

[http://www.lawrence.edu/dpt/acad\\_music/camps.shtml](http://www.lawrence.edu/dpt/acad_music/camps.shtml)

*Eastern Illinois University*

<http://www.eiu.edu/~music/camps/index.php>

*Western Illinois University*

<http://www.wiu.edu/musiccamps/>

Summer music camp scholarships are available through the Mokena Music Boosters. Students interested in applying for a camp scholarship should see Mrs. Maffia.

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