

LCMS Music Notes

A publication for parents with news, notes, and more from the LCMS Band and Orchestra programs.



LEWIS AND CLARK MIDDLE SCHOOL
JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2

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The Importance of Planned Practice



"If I don't practice the way I should, then I can't play the way that I know I can," stated

Ivan Lendl, professional tennis player. A musician's success can be determined by several factors, but when it comes to the nitty-gritty, the ones who put in the time practicing well are the ones who end up ahead.

Yet, the art of practicing does not involve just plopping down and playing short songs from a book. It takes consideration and planning to produce a beneficial practice session.

Just as any athlete would not

think of practicing or playing without warming up, musicians too must have a routine for getting started. For some that means playing long tones, breathing deep, playing scales. This is the time to focus solely on fundamentals of sound production, basics of posture, and elements of technique.

Next, a musician moves to exercises that help develop new skills or perfect old ones. Always, a player should have a clear focus for his or her playing. Am I trying to fix a problem, isolate a tricky section, improve something? One should also have methods to effectively approach goals. Is this a skill that requires repetition or the use of a tuner?

Finally, a musician puts the fundamentals and exercises to work in pieces for performance. Solo, chamber, and concert music incorporate numerous fundamentals and techniques, often in contrast to one other. Success in performance literature is made better by spending time isolating elements during the warm up and exercise times.

Remember, "It's not necessarily the amount of time you spend at practice that counts, it's what you put into the practice," said Eric Lindros, ice hockey player. The next time your student is preparing to practice, ask him or her about practice time and what goals he or she has for the session.

Band and Orchestra Fundraiser Raises \$4,000



The recent LCMS band and orchestra cookie dough fundraiser was quite a success! Students sixth through eighth grade sought support from parents, neighbors, friends,

and other relatives to contribute to the music program at school. In all, the band and orchestra programs raised close to \$4,000 to enrich the music experience of students at LCMS.

Raised monies will go toward a marimba for the percussion section, pieces of music for both the band and orchestra libraries, music assessment software, bringing guest artists into the

classroom, and festival fees for the Meridian spring ensemble festivals.

Cookie dough will be available for pick up after school on **Friday, October 23** from **3:00-6:30 p.m.** in Ms. Matsuura's room (Room 125). If you will not be available to pick up cookie dough at that time, please contact Ms. Matsuura (350-4270 ext. 1125) to arrange a different date for pick up.

Upcoming Events:

- TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20 IS 6TH GRADE PARENT NIGHT IN ROOM 125
6:30 PM — ORCHESTRA
7:00 PM — BRASS-PERCUSSION
7:30 PM — WOODWINDS
- THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22 IS THE 7TH-8TH GRADE FALL CONCERT IN THE LCMS GYM AT 7:00 PM

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LCMS Music Notes

Guidelines for Concert Attire



Concert attire for seventh and eighth grade students is white on top and black on the bottom.

The concert is tomorrow and your student brings home a reminder note about concert attire, and the panic begins — what to wear?!

Dressing appropriately for the occasion can be stressful if prior planning doesn't happen. The expectations for concert dress are outlined in the band and orchestra student-parent handbooks, but for a quick refresher, here are a few good things to keep in mind.

- Concert attire should follow all guidelines recommended by the LCMS dress code
- Additionally, please avoid flip-flops, shorts, jeans, and hemlines that fall above the knee while sitting
- Clothing should be hemmed, clean, pressed and in good condition

Seventh and eighth grade students are to wear white on

top and black on the bottom. Girls may wear skirts, pants, or dresses.

If students have any trouble obtaining appropriate clothing for concerts, the school has had several concert clothing donations. Please arrange a time with Ms. Matsuura to come see if there is something that may work for your student. Plus, we always accept more donations if your student outgrows any of his or her black and white.

MAKE SURE THAT THEY [YOUR STUDENTS] PRACTICE! IT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING AND IT PAYS OFF IN THE END!
~MARISA YODER, 9TH GRADE, RENAISSANCE HIGH SCHOOL AND LCMS BAND ALUMNI

Parents Offer Advice to First-Time Band & Orchestra Parents

At the September LCMS Back to School Night, experienced band and orchestra parents offered sage advice and helpful hints for first-time parents of beginning instrumental students. Some of the advice seems obvious, some humorous, but all of it thoughtful and useful.

- Practice often and keep a routine

- Practice, practice, practice! The noise can be too much at times, but practice is vital.
- Positively encourage. Always go to concerts.
- Enjoy the music
- There is less squeaking after a lot of practice (clarinet parent)

- Learn how to count the rhythm, note names, valves [fingerings], etc. When they get frustrated then you can help at least a little!
- Go to a Concert of the 7th or 8th grade band/orchestra and hear the progress that they will make.
- Buy concert clothes early



Thanks to Phil Hartman, CHS Director of Bands for the teacher exchange opportunity with Ms. Matsuura!

Teacher Exchange Brings Phil Hartman, Others to Concert Band

The collaborative efforts of music directors across the Meridian district is affording LCMS students the opportunity to experience other directors.

Recently, Ms. Matsuura and Phil Hartman, Centennial High School Director of Bands, exchanged positions for one

class period. Matsuura travelled to Pioneer Elementary to start beginning band students on clarinet and Hartman worked with the eighth grade band.

Students enjoyed having a new face in front of the group with different insights and a wealth of teaching

experience.

In the future the middle school band directors of the district hope to continue exchanges to further share ideas amongst directors, ensure consistency in learning across the district, and enrich student learning.

Live Performances Inspire Students

The Treasure Valley is a region rich in musical culture; from the Boise Philharmonic, comprised of professional musicians, paid for their services, to the Boise Chordsmen, an ensemble of community members who enjoy singing. Our musical culture is only enriched by the music departments of Boise State University, College of Idaho, and Northwest Nazarene University who offer additional performances at surprisingly low costs, or even

free!

Students who show a spark for music only become more enthusiastic when exposed to fine live performances, and for those students who are already passionate about their work, a live performance can only cause their flame to grow.

Consider taking your student to see one of the Treasure Valley's fine performing groups. If the concert is a little on the pricey side, con-

sider giving tickets as a gift or a reward.

Some places to look for ideas may include:

- The Boise Philharmonic: www.boisephilharmonic.org
- The Meridian Symphony Orchestra: www.meridiansymphony.org
- BSU: www.boisestate.edu/music
- C of I: www.collegeofidaho.edu/academics/music/



Many Treasure Valley performing groups offer discount prices for students to attend concerts.

String Orchestra and Concert Band Elect Student Officers

The Fall Semester started off with student elections in the advanced string and band ensembles at LCMS. In both the String Orchestra and Concert Band many students were nominated, all equally qualified for leadership positions.

All nominees presented prepared speeches to their classes and students selected

officers by anonymous ballot. The final results are:

String Orchestra

President — Daryn Frederick
Vice President — Jasmyn Bandurraga
Librarian — Cassie Benavides

Concert Band

President — Haley Yoder
Vice President — Riley Hope
Librarians — Sydney Carnahan, Brianna Hedquist, and Samantha Wallace
Congratulations to all elected officers!

“MUSIC TAKES US OUT OF THE ACTUAL AND WHISPERS TO US DIM SECRETS THAT STARTLE OUR WONDER AS TO WHO WE ARE, AND FOR WHAT, WHENCE, AND WHERE TO.”
~RALPH WALDO EMERSON

Flex Your Musical Muscles!

What do the following trios have in common?

Example:

- Hunting dog
- Compass
- Scoreboard

ANSWER: They all point (or have points)!

Trio #1

- Trombone
- Children's playground
- Lab microscope

ANSWER: _____

Trio #2

- Fish
- Sheet music
- Dieters

ANSWER: _____

Trio #3

- Railroad
- Wild animal
- Music CD

ANSWER: _____

Return to Ms. Matsuura with answers for a treat!





Learning Creates More Success

JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2

Katie Matsuura
Director of Bands & Orchestras
Lewis and Clark Middle School
4141 E. Pine
Meridian, ID 83642

Phone: 350-4270
Fax: 350-4284
matsuura.kathryn@meridianschools.org

LCMS Fine Arts Department Mission:

Our central focus is a commitment to promote and elevate the study of the arts as both an essential part of the human experience and a vibrant expression of the human soul. The LCMS Department of Fine Arts is dedicated to the understanding, practice, and advancement of the arts, as measured and evaluated by state and national arts standards.

LCMS Fine Arts Department Vision:

The LCMS Fine Arts Department

- A. Creates visual art, music performance, composition, and theatrical production.*
- B. Explores art in our world's culture as a tool of self-expression, self-discovery, and creativity.*
- C. Provides instruction appropriate to the ability level of students in an optimum environment.*
- D. Develops curricula which embrace cultural diversity, promote arts advocacy, and develop links to other areas of study.*
- E. Provides facilities, technology, and other resources that support a dynamic learning environment.*
- F. Creates a learning community of teachers, students, and parents which is dedicated to developing artistic excellence and expression for life-long learning and enjoyment.*

2009-2010 Concert Schedule (1st—3rd Quarters)

OCTOBER 20 — Ms. Matsuura's Room 125

6:30 PM — 6th grade orchestra class

7:00 PM — 6th grade brass-percussion classes

7:30 PM — 6th grade woodwind classes

7:30 PM — LCMS/LHMS/MVHS Combined Band Concert: 8th grade band*

MARCH 16 — Centennial HS Auditorium

7:00 PM — Pre-Festival Concert: 7th-8th graders*

OCTOBER 22 — LCMS Gym

7:00 PM — Fall Concert: 7th-8th graders*

MARCH 23 — LCMS Room 125

During school day — 7th grade band festival

DECEMBER 17 — Centennial HS Auditorium

7:00 PM — Winter Concert: 6th-8th graders*

MARCH 24 — Meridian MS Auditorium

During school day — 8th grade band festival

JANUARY 14 — TBA

6:00 PM — LCMS Gallery Night: select students

MARCH 25 — Meridian MS Auditorium

During school day — 7th/8th grade orchestra festival

FEBRUARY 18 — Mountain View HS Auditorium

*students need to arrive 30 minutes prior to performance time



This year's concert series features performances at Centennial High School and Mountain View High School auditoriums