



Lutheran Elementary School Band Program

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<http://www.lutherhigh.org/arts/les-band>

Lancer Band

Sabre Band

Marching Band

Jazz Band

September 16, 2010

Dear Band Parents and Students,

Greetings to both new and returning band parents! Band lessons have begun and we're looking forward to another busy, but very promising year.

Students in Lancer Band will be performing an audition again this year as they have the last few years. This process does not exclude anyone from being in Lancer Band, but it does give each student the opportunity to demonstrate several important factors of musicianship. We will use the results of this information for chair placement and in the distribution of specific parts within each section. Auditions will be held September 23rd through September 29th during each student's lesson. Each Lancer Band member has been given the audition music and more detailed information. Whenever available, recordings of the audition pieces will be posted on our web page (which can be found at <http://www.lutherhigh.org/arts/les-band/sights-a-sounds>).

We will be starting our weekly band rehearsals at Luther High School in Onalaska, WI on Friday, October 1st. Sabre Band will involve all of our new students and will run from 3:00-4:00 in the Band Room at Luther. Lancer Band will involve those students with at least one year of band experience and will run from 4:00-5:00 in the Band Room at Luther. Please make sure your son or daughter is early enough to get things put together and be ready to begin on time. Rehearsals will be held October 1, 8, 15, 22 and November 5. Our performances will include the Heidelberg Fall Festival on Sunday, October 25 (Lancer Band only) and the Science and Fine Arts Fair on Saturday, November 6 (both bands). Both events will be held at Luther High School. Please inform me if your son or daughter will be missing any rehearsals or performances so I can plan accordingly. In the event of any cancellations of rehearsals or performances, a message will be left on the cancellation line at Luther High School. You can access this information by dialing (608) 783-5435 and pressing 1.

Sabre Band members received their lesson books at their first lesson. The costs for these books are \$11.00 for percussionists and French horn players and \$10.00 for everyone else. Please send this money along with your child as soon as possible. Lancer Band members will again be using the book entitled *Bach and Before for Band* in addition to their regular lesson books. This book will be useful for lessons and rehearsals and will also give students opportunities to play solos, small ensembles and large ensembles for church, the Science and Fine Arts Fair and other events throughout the year. Students who were in Lancer Band last year should already have one of these books. I have purchased copies for each new Lancer Band student and will distribute them at the first rehearsal. Please send \$6.00 along with your child as soon as possible to purchase your book.

Our lesson book series includes an accompaniment CD that can be used with any CD/DVD player and the iPAS assessment software that can run on both Windows and Mac computers. These discs include a metronome, a tuner, accompaniment tracks for every song in the book and assessment software for various songs throughout the book as well. If you do not own a microphone for your computer, you will need to

purchase one for most of the software features to work. I have found a company that makes special instrumental microphones that have a long cord and will safely clip on to your instrument for \$11.00. If you wish to purchase a microphone, please fill out and return the form included with this letter. More information will be coming that will be needed to download and upload lesson assignments, but the program is fully functional for home practice as soon as you install it.

If you visited us at Luther for registration, you filled out a registration form and received a copy of our Program Guide (the booklet with the gray cover inside the binder). If you did not attend, you should find copies of both with this letter. Please return the registration form as soon as possible. Included in the guide is our schedule for the year, the point system for our awards, good reminders of maintenance issues and other helpful tips for all parents and students. Please return the last page of the program guide once you've had a chance to read through it with your child, hopefully by the third week of lessons.

For students needing new reeds, valve oil or other supplies, I will be keeping most of the frequently needed items in supply and with me on my routes. Included with this note you will find a list of supplies and their prices. Checks can be written out to Luther High School.

If you have any questions or concerns throughout the year, please feel free to contact me using the information above.

God's blessings!

Nate Amundson
Band Director