



## St. Michael Catholic School Band Program Information

Welcome back to school and to our music program!!  
I am so thrilled to be part of your child's education!

St. Michael Catholic School has in-house band through the St. Michael-Albertville School district with a program called "Shared Time". If your student is new to the band program, he/she will need to be enrolled for this class through the public school. Forms will be available for you at our Beginning Band meeting, which will be held prior to Middle Level Open House on Wednesday, August 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:30pm in the Music Room.

**Music Organization:** All band students need a 1 inch 3-ring binder and 20 sheet protectors, with 4 tabs or index dividers. Students will put their sheet music in the sheet protectors and organize by sections.

**Instruments:** If you already have an instrument, please have it checked by an instrument repair shop to ensure that it is in working order. Beginning a musical instrument is challenging enough without having to worry about leaky pads, stuck valves, or chipped mouthpieces. Often times musical instruments that are sold by retail stores are not high quality and do not last. I would recommend renting an instrument first. Renting provides an opportunity to give band a try before investing in an instrument. Many music stores (Eckroth, Schmitt, etc.) offer a 4-month trial period. After the trial period, it rolls over into a monthly rental. All rent paid goes toward the purchase price of the instrument. Please have an instrument for your child by September 11<sup>th</sup> as that is when small group lessons will begin.

**Practice Logs:** Students are required to practice 20 minutes a day/5 days a week for a total of 100 minutes per week. Students must record their time on a practice calendar and turn it in with a parent/guardian signature.

**Small Group Lessons:** Students will have small group lessons once during each 6-day cycle, beginning September 11<sup>th</sup>. Students will be grouped according to ability and instrumentation. Schedules will be forthcoming.

**Beginning Band - Full Group Rehearsals:** Full group rehearsals for beginning band will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting November 5<sup>th</sup>. They will run from 7:15-8:15 in the Historic Church basement. Students should be dropped off in the West parking lot behind the Historic Church. After rehearsals, I will walk with students to school. Beginning Band will have 2 concerts (listed below). Concerts are required and are a part of their band grade. An optional recital will be held on May 12<sup>th</sup> where students can showcase their performance skills by playing a solo or small group piece.

**Advanced Band - Full Group Rehearsals:** Full group Advanced Band rehearsals (Grades 6-8) will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays. It will begin on September 9<sup>th</sup> and run from 7:15-8:15 in the Historic Church basement. Students should be dropped off in the West parking lot behind the Historic Church. After rehearsals, I will walk with students to school. Concerts (listed below) are required and are a part of their band grade. An optional recital will be held on May 12<sup>th</sup> where students can showcase their performance skills by playing a solo or small group piece.

### **Literature:**

Standard of Excellence, book 1 by Bruce Pearson, Kjos Publishing (primary text for Beginning Band)

Measures of Success, book 1 by Sheldon, Balmages, Loest, FJH Publishing (primary text for 2<sup>nd</sup> year students)

Measures of Success, book 2 by Sheldon, Balmages, Loest, FJH Publishing (primary text for 3<sup>rd</sup> year students)

Accent on Achievement, book 2 by John O'Reilly and Mark Williams (primary text for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students)

Please purchase the book for your child's level prior to their first small group lesson. Books can be found at most music stores (Eckroth, Schmitt, etc.). To supplement the band curriculum, various genres of concert music will be added.

**Concert Dates:** *(In addition to the optional recital on May 12<sup>th</sup> which is noted under rehearsals.)*

8th Gr. Band & STMA HS Band - Side by Side Concert  
December 9 at 7:00pm; STMA PAC

Advanced Band with ML Choir Concert  
March 24 at 6:30pm; Historic Church

Advanced Band with K-4 Christmas Program & ML Choir  
December 12 at 6:30pm; St. Michael Catholic Church

Beg. & Adv. Band - Band Festival  
May 14; Holy Family School, Victoria

Beginning Band Concert  
February 11 at 6:30pm; Historic Church

Beg. & Adv. Band w/ML Choir Concert  
May 19 at 6:30pm; Historic Church

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Email is the best way to reach me as I travel among four schools. I look forward to enhancing your child's music education!

Musically Yours, Victoria Van Beusekom ~ victoriav@stma.k12.mn.us; 763-497-8025 ext. 6419