

Students and Parents of the Fort Gratiot Band Program,

30 March 2010

Part of our responsibilities as band students is to promote our program. Younger students in elementary schools sometimes do not realize the positive influences learning to play an instrument can have on their lives and future, as well as all the “fun” they will have and new friends they will make.

Being in band includes plenty of band sponsored social activities to keep them and their new friends occupied and the musical training is something they and their families will be able to enjoy all their lives. Many non-band students come to me later in their middle school and high school years and voiced their regret in not taking the opportunity to be a part of such a positive program. Many tell me they just did not know much about it. By then, it is too late to become a part of our band “family.” You see, if a student does not become a part of our program in 6th grade, it is generally not possible to join in 7th or 8th. It would be very difficult if not impossible for a beginner to join a more advanced band. For this reason, we like to travel to the elementary schools giving them a firsthand look at what is in store for them, if they choose to learn to play an instrument. They also need to know prior musical knowledge is not required and that most students had none.

Some of the older students may have “testimonials” to give the 5th graders about their experience in band and what they personally were able to achieve and how that has influenced their lives. We try to play music the younger students might like to get up and dance to like “High School Musical” or “Green Day” or “Best of Both Worlds”. Fun exciting music is the key to engaging the younger students; we try very hard to accomplish that in these 20-minute introductions to our program. Our goal is to be sure every child that has an interest in making music and becoming a part of our “family,” has an opportunity in 6th grade to join us.

I am asking for interested students wishing to be a part of this traveling performance band to commit to a **minimum of 3 rehearsals**, the **elementary school performances**, and the very **short evening performance** that same night at about 7:00-7:30 PM in the Fort Gratiot Gym on May 3, 2010.

Rehearsals will begin immediately after spring break on Wednesdays, and later in April on Fridays, from 4:00PM - 5:00PM. The dates are:

Wednesdays:

April 14, April 21, April 28

And Fridays:

April 23, April 30

I will be accepting applications for this prestigious band only on Monday immediately after spring break. I will need all those interested, to return the application form Monday April 12.

I will accept only 35-40 students for this group and I will give precedence to instrumentation needs and ability. I will accept 8th grade students interested before younger students. Due to the fact this being the last chance for them to participate and the younger students will have the next years to be a part of this coveted band.

I will post the Band members accepted on the website Monday night and Tuesday morning in the band room.

Website: FortGratiotBand .org

To be returned to Mrs. Armstrong by Monday, April 12, 2010

Name _____

Instrument _____

Class hour _____ grade _____

If I am chosen to participate in this very special band, as a representative of Fort Gratiot bands I agree to be sure my actions and behavior represent Fort Gratiot bands and school as an exemplary student. I will learn my music, be prepared for rehearsals and performances, pay attention during rehearsals, and arrive on time for each rehearsal and engagement.

I realize I may not be chosen to participate and that I will be informed of that decision Tuesday April 13, 2010. I understand that I am required to attend at least 3 rehearsals out of 5 and that I have a ride to school for the Elementary school performances at 8:00am May 3, 2010 and I will also be at Fort Gratiot School Gym by 7:00PM that evening for the orientation performance for the 5th grade parents and students.

I agree that my child is mature enough to commit to this agreement and I will be able to transport him/her to and from the school at these times for rehearsals and performances.

Student's signature

date

Parent's/Guardian's signature

date

Rehearsals:

April 14, 21, 23, 28, 30

Performances:

Monday, May 3

Elementary schools all day 8:00am-3:30 pm (Bus leaves about 8:00AM) Thomas Edison, Lakeport, Keewahdin, Birchwood Mall for lunch

Orientation 7:00PM Fort Gratiot Gym

Possible performance at Fort Gratiot Spring Concert May 18, 2010 McMorran Auditorium