



## ATTENTION: 5<sup>th</sup> GRADE PARENTS AND STUDENTS

### BIS MUSIC INFORMATION SHEET

#### INCLUDES INSTRUMENTAL AND CHOIR PROGRAM FOR ALL INCOMING 6<sup>th</sup> GRADERS

The BIS Music Program for school year 2008-2009 is strong with two outstanding directors: Doug Simon directs all band activities and Miriam Burnett all choir activities. Mr. Simon returned to BIS this school year after being away for 3 years. We are excited to see the progress he made with the musicians after just one year! Ms. Burnett is the first credentialed choir director to be dedicated to BIS in quite awhile and started at BIS this school year.

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade Music Program is designed to continue the students' interests in music that they bring with them from their elementary schools. It also has the purpose of preparing them for the more advanced and diverse levels of music studies in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades!

The information below is designed to give you a comprehensive understanding of the BIS Music Program for 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Please print it, save it or whatever it takes to absorb and remember it! AND, please share it with your incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders.

Please note: band and choir information is communicated almost exclusively via email to the parents. We are in the process of gathering emails from each elementary school for all 5<sup>th</sup> graders who currently play an instrument.

**Choir Instruction and Practice** - For all 6<sup>th</sup> Graders (unless they have chosen Mandarin as their year-long explorative), choir music will be one of the 6-week instructional periods that they will experience during the explorative rotation wheel. This is a new program intended to continue 6<sup>th</sup> graders on the path of reading and writing music and working in a choral ensemble. It also will offer them exposure to our wonderful Mrs. Burnett and to choir at the middle school level. This exposure will give them important information when they are entering 7<sup>th</sup> (and 8<sup>th</sup>) grade regarding whether to choose choir as an elective.

**Instrumental Instruction and Practice** - For 6<sup>th</sup> Graders, instrumental music instruction/practice falls into two major categories at BIS\*:

**1. Zero Period Instruction:** Zero Period at BIS starts at 7:30 am. (This is the period before the 1<sup>st</sup> Period of the normal school day.) Doors open at 7:15 am. For 45 minutes on Zero Period mornings, 6<sup>th</sup> grade musicians assemble to practice and receive instruction. Here is how it works:

- Tuesday and Friday Zero Periods, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Concert Band meets.
- Wednesday Zero Period, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Jazz Band meets.

Attendance at Concert Zero Period is mandatory if your child wishes to participate in Jazz Zero Period. If your student does not play a Jazz Band instrument (for example: flutes and clarinets are not Jazz Band instruments) they may be able to switch to a jazz band instrument based on their desire and ability. Mr. Simon will help your student and you to make this decision at the beginning of the school year.

Attendance is taken at every Zero Period. Your child must attend Zero Period, if they wish to participate in the various performances and activities throughout the school year.

Zero Period Concert Band traditionally starts the first week of school; Zero Period Jazz Band starts the second week of school. Exact dates will be emailed to you at the end of the summer.

**2. Pull-outs:** Approximately one time every eight school days, your child will attend instrument instruction for their specific instrument in small groups. They will get "pulled out" of their Explorative Class (which next year is third period; the Explorative Class is a class of elective type instruction -e.g. art, drama- that varies from teacher to teacher.) It is your child's responsibility to know to leave their Explorative Class to go to music. The Pull-Out Schedule is available in the Band Room. We will also email the schedule to you so you can hopefully remind your child before they leave for school that day to be sure to attend music pull-out.

\*Although stated otherwise at various meetings, this program is exactly the same as in previous years!