

## Letter from the Band Director

Dear Parents,

My name is Rocco Carioto and I am the band director at nearby Bishop Noll Institute. I have been a music educator for close to 22 years, all in the Catholic school system. Principal Pastrick has decided to create a fine arts program for band at St. Casimir. I am honored and proud to be asked to help create this wonderful opportunity for students. This program will be open to 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. The band program will be open to both students who wish to learn a band instrument who have never played an instrument and to those who currently may play a band instrument.

Band is a fun, exciting and educational activity and class that gives students a chance to meet new friends and become more involved in their school and the community. We will perform both a Christmas concert and spring concert. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in state sponsored solo contests when they are ready. Band instills lifelong skills, a strong work ethic, and self-accomplishment. We invite all students who have a love of music whether they play a musical instrument or would like to learn, to join our band program. We ask that you fill out the form below and return it to the main office. All parents will be informed of an upcoming band meeting where students will get to see and handle firsthand the musical instruments available for them. I will talk about the band program and also have a few of the Bishop Noll band students on hand to talk about their experience playing in band both in elementary school and high school.

Band is a fee based class. Families will be asked to pay a \$25.00 a month band fee which will cover the cost of all music materials (method book, music and folio). Band will meet two days a week Monday and Wednesday after school from 2:45pm-3:30pm. In addition I will be using and bringing in many musical learning resources I have available at Bishop Noll at no extra cost to families. This will be a unique and innovative program for students. I have also enclosed information about questions you may have about musical instruments and other topics as well. I ask that you fill out the bottom of this sheet and return to the main office; looking forward to meeting all of you in the near future.

Sincerely,

Mr. Carioto—Band Director

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### ST. CASIMIR BAND INTEREST INFORMATION SHEET

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

**(Please check one of the following)**

\_\_\_\_\_ My son or daughter does not play a musical instrument

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, my son or daughter currently plays a musical instrument which is the \_\_\_\_\_.

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



## MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS—RENTAL OR PURCHASE

WHAT IF WE DO NOT OWN A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT?

I have three options that I can offer families at St. Casimir.

- 1) **FREE INSTRUMENTAL USAGE:** Since I am the director at Bishop Noll I do have a limited number of band instruments that we can offer students on a first come first serve basis for free. These include: flutes, clarinets, trumpets, trombones, French horns, saxophones, and drums. These are on a limited availability first come first serve basis. Families will be responsible for instrument supplies, its upkeep and for any repairs.
- 2) **INSTRUMENTAL RENTAL:** I am associated with Quinlan and Fabish Music Company that offers families a rent to own program for a small monthly fee (usually between \$20.00—\$40.00 per month). The rental program covers the cost and repair of all instruments. Furthermore, if a student starts on one instrument but wants to switch to another, Q & F will allow you to transfer the rental money to the other instrument without starting over. The representative is at Bishop Noll every Thursday so any instruments that may need repair can be picked up and dropped back off at Bishop Noll so parents do not have to drive out to their location.
- 3) **PURCHASE A NEW INSTRUMENT FOR A FRACTION OF THE COST:** I belong to a national band directors association that allows me to purchase new instruments for a fraction of the cost of instruments that are bought in a store. Families can save sometimes \$400.00—\$700.00 dollars. I have more information on this if families are interested. The only drawback is that instrumental repairs are not covered although there is a limited warranty on these instruments.

Most students who purchase an instrument during elementary school still use it in high school so it is an investment that will pay for itself many times over.



## ST. CASIMIR BAND PROGRAM

The following are frequently asked questions about band.

### Who can join the Band?

Any student who has played a musical instrument or would like to learn to play an instrument is welcome.

### How do I join the Band?

You must fill out the registration form and return it to the address listed along with your band fee. Students are given a certificate at the end of the year which is listed in their transcripts that they participated in band. This is something that will help students on transcripts for high school. High schools see band students as hard working dedicated students that will be a great addition to their school.

### What performances are available in the band program?

The band is a year long class. We learn all types of great fun music. The band will perform two concerts a year during Christmas time and spring time. In addition, students are also offered the opportunity to perform in state sponsored solo and ensemble competitions. As students become proficient on their instrument they will also have the opportunity to perform for school masses, prayer services and assemblies throughout the year.

### Can I participate in sports and other activities?

ABSOLUTELY! I have volleyball players, basketball players, chess club members, in band. We make it work for everyone!

### Does Band interfere with other classes?

No, we have structured the band class so it takes place after school so it does not interfere with any class time. Please feel free to speak to Mr. Carioto for any further information. You can also send me an e-mail at [rocco\\_carioto@yahoo.com](mailto:rocco_carioto@yahoo.com).



## DID YOU KNOW?

1. Studies show that students of music tend to score higher on standardized tests. Music students score on the average of 100 points higher on exams.
2. Studies show that performing music utilizes both the right and left brain, since reading music involves computing notes and rhythms as well as use of emotions. Music performance develops pathways between the two sides of the brain. (Scientific fact!)
3. In band class we study math (counting rhythms in fractions), science (acoustics), history in relation to musical compositions, foreign language (most musical terms are in Italian), and of course the reading of music.
4. Band develops leadership, discipline, teamwork, and motivation.
5. Band can help a student become admitted to a private high school and more importantly help you get high school financial aid.
6. Band students learn about music from all around the world.
7. Band members usually become life-long friends that start in junior high and many times continue through high school and college.
8. It is a special God given gift that you can share with your family, your school and your community. Music touches many lives.