

From The Podium

December 2017 Volume 11 , Issue 4

Welcome to December! We've had a busy November so lets get going.

First I'd like to talk about All-District auditions. What a day! There were over 450 students at the audition with 130 spots available. Our kids had a fantastic showing with 18 students being selected to the band. Congratulations to the following students for making the Band:

Flutes - Claire M. and Natalie C.

Clarinets - Roselyn B and Sydney T.

Alto Sax - Dawson G.

Trumpets - Jade H., Emilee K., Adam B., and Jennifer M.

Trombones - Owen G.

Baritones - Madison F

Tubas - Joseph R., Jack G., and Taylor W.

Percussion - Lawson W., Conrad M., Braeden R., and Ben W.

This was the largest amount of kids from GJHS to make the band in a very long time. These musicians will go to Wichita Falls on January 27th, to attend an all day clinic to prepare for a concert that evening. We are so proud of all of the kids who sacrificed a Saturday to go and audition. That was very selfless of them and we greatly appreciate their time and effort.

The next performance for our kids is our Christmas Concert on December 12th in the High School New Gym. It is a tradition here that our concerts are standing room only. Please bring your family and friends and fill that gym. Like I always say, these kids deserve to play for a packed house.

With that, comes the dress requirements. These are listed in the handbook every student received at the beginning of the year. I know it's been a long time since that was handed out. We talked about this with

the kids this past week during class. The Christmas Concert is the only concert that we ask the kids to dress nicely. I know that the concert is in a gym, but it is still a formal concert. I've asked the kids not to wear jeans or sneakers. Boots, dress shoes, Toms, or Sperrys are acceptable footwear. Young gentlemen can wear either a button down dress shirt, a button collared polo, or a sweater. They also need to wear khakis. The color doesn't matter. For young ladies, a dress is acceptable. I asked the ladies that if they do wear a dress, to please make sure that the length goes past the knees. We discussed the reason why with the girls. I'll let you talk to them about what was discussed. If they would like, they are more than welcome to wear khakis or a skirt and a blouse. I also advised them not to wear heels. Flats, Toms, Spearys, or boots are fine. As with all school events, the kids have to abide by the school district dress code.

Our GJHS Christmas Brass World Tour begins tomorrow. A have a group of 8th Grade Band kids who will tour the school district this week. We will be at Pioneer on Monday, Crestview Tuesday, Woodland Wednesday, and JH on Thursday. If you are around, come on by and check them out.



All of our kiddos have made some incredible progress since we have started school. I would hate to have to back track too much due to the Christmas Break. In order to avoid this, PLEASE have your child play for you, practice, find something online to play, something that will keep your child's chops in shape. There is nothing worse than having to come back after a long break and have to take so long getting faces back in shape. I akin this to our athletes not getting a run or stretching during the break. You don't want to have to spend a lot of time rebuilding muscles and falling behind in preparation for our spring events. I'm not asking for a lot of time, but a few minutes a day will go very far.

Sometime during the break, I will have a new Spring Calendar sent to you and posted on our district calendar. We fund out at the beginning of the year, that the State has changed some of the STAAR dates. This has affected our UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest dates. That will also affect our after school rehearsal dates. You will get this calendar before we get back to school so you can make any changes needed. I apologize, but my hands are tied on this issue.

We will have a busy spring. The first event for the 7th and 8th Graders is the UIL Solo and Ensemble Festival.

I will sort out ensembles for both the 7th and 8th Grade Bands pretty soon. Not everyone will participate, but I will include as many kids as possible so they get this experience. Like the All-District Music, we use chamber (small groups) ensembles to expose the kids to other music they wouldn't play in a large group. This type of playing improves their listening and individual playing skills. We will start on this music in January and the festival is in February and will take place at Wichita Falls High School.

Like I told you at the beginning of the year, we have changed zones in our region. This change was made for the kids and parents alike. Unlike last year, we will be much closer to our contests. Both Solo and Ensemble as well as UIL Concert and Sight-reading will be held at Wichita Falls High School. This will cut down on travel time as give our parents the opportunity to attend these performances. I think you will agree that the travel to Stephenville was a bit long. We hope to see great attendance from our wonderful parents at both events. It's much better for the kids to play for an audience rather than just three judges and an empty auditorium. i hope to see you there.

Our 6th Graders will also be preparing for their contests when we get back from break. both events are

in April. The first event is the Sandy Lake Fun-Fest. Just to put a bug in your ear, we will need parent chaperones riding the buses there and back as well as watching the kids while we are at the park and the mall. The more help we have, the better the trip and the safer our kids will be. This has been a good festival over the years for our 6th Grade Band. They will also have the opportunity to participate at the Decatur Solo and Ensemble the later part of April. I can't wait.

We wish the Graham Steers all of the best on their post-district run. It's been fun watching them do so well this year. The next game is against Bushland at Lowry Field in Lubbock. We will have Early Release on Friday so those that choose can attend the game. Be safe and keep warm if you're heading out.

I guess that's all for this month. On behalf of Mr. Freeman, Mr. Kidd, and all of our students, we'd like to wish you a Merry Christmas, a wonderful New Year, and remember to fill that gym on the 12th.

Until January, take care,

Mr. G

Dogie Band Calendar

December

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| 5th | - | 6th Grade Band Christmas Concert Rehearsal. 3:30pm - 4:30pm |
| 7th | - | 6th Grade Band Christmas Concert Rehearsal. 3:30pm - 4:30pm |
| 8th | - | GISD Early Release. |
| 11th | - | GHS Fine Arts Showcase at Memorial Auditorium. |
| 12th | - | GJHS Bands Christmas Concert. 7pm GHS New Gym |
| 20th | - | Early Release |
| 21st - 29th | - | Christmas Break |

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