

From The Podium

January 2018 Volume 11 , Issue 5

Happy New Year! I hope your holidays have been fun and relaxing and that the kiddos are ready to hit the ground running Tuesday morning.

I'd like to talk about last month's Christmas Concert. Wow! On behalf of the kids, thank you so much for putting a huge dent on the home side of the gym. You were a large and gracious audience. I know the kids appreciated it. I also want to thank Mrs. Robbins from the bottom of my heart for playing our Grumpy Elf. She did a wonderful job! I'm sure you'll agree that all three bands had a wonderful performance. That was a result of their hard work in and out of class. We could not be any prouder, but we are far from done.

Before we went on break, we advised the kids to make sure they do a little bit of playing so we don't have cobwebs blowing out Tuesday. We have a lot to accomplish and prepare for and we don't want to waste time getting chops back up to shape. There is a bunch of prep work involved to get ready for our upcoming contests and performances. The quicker we start, the better. We will continue in our book as well. 7th and 8th Graders should have Essential Elements 2000 Book two for their instrument and of course the 6th Graders will continue in their book. These should have been purchased at the beginning of the year.

Speaking of things that are around the bend. Please note that due to STARR dates being changed for the high school kids in the state, our dates for UIL Concert and Sight-reading contest has changed. With that change, we had to make some adjustments to our spring calendar. Those dates are included in this calendar and have been updated in our Google Calendar that is on the Band website - gjhs.grahamisd.com/dogieband. Please make sure that you are careful not to schedule anything on these

dates. Remember that all rehearsals and performances are mandatory and graded.

As I said earlier, we are going to hit the ground running when we get back to school on Tuesday. The first event we have is UIL Solo and Ensemble Festival on February 24th. We have selected groups from our 7th and 8th Grade Bands to participate. We will be able to do this work during class. Playing in smaller groups will help the kids with their musicianship and listening skills. This festival will be at Wichita Falls HS and parents are more than welcome to watch them perform.

We will also start work on our UIL and Sandy Lake Festival Performances. The 7th and 8th Graders started reading some music before we left for break. The 6th Grade Band will start work on theirs around the end of this month. In order for the kids to participate, they must test off their music, participate in Band every day, and not have more than 2 ISS assignments during the year. I will have a testing schedule by the next newsletter.

If children hear fine music from the day of their birth and learn to play it, they develop sensitivity, discipline and endurance. They get a beautiful heart.

~ Shinichi Suzuki

6th Grade Band

Well, how about their performance at the concert last month? Like I told you back in October, you haven't seen anything yet. Although that was a great performance, it's not good enough for our next one. This is something we preach to all of our band members through high school. We will continue to build on the skills developed since August to become better musicians and to help them become successful in future performances. Their next major performance will be at the Sandy Lake Fun-Fest on April 5th. More details on that in future newsletters.

Just a quick reminder that our clarinet and alto sax players must have good reeds in which to play. Playing on reeds too long will make them soft and will make it much more difficult to play. You can get these through Sam Gibbs Music or ALP Music. If you call them, they will be more than happy to deliver.

7th and 8th Grade Bands

We will pick up where we left off before break. Please make sure that your child has plenty of sheet protectors in their black notebook. Over the next couple of weeks, I'll be passing out a bunch of music and having the music in sheet protectors will ensure that they don't lose their music.

We will start back in the EE 2K books as well. This should have been purchased at the beginning of the year. Of course, 8th Graders should have theirs from last year.

Although our UIL Contest is the beginning of April, there are going to be days that we will miss for testing and spring break.

Every rehearsal is important and we can't afford to lose a minute. The extra after school rehearsals, although few, are EXTREMELY important. These are the only times that we can rehearse together with the percussion kids. By the time we get to these rehearsals, all we should be working on are any balance issues.

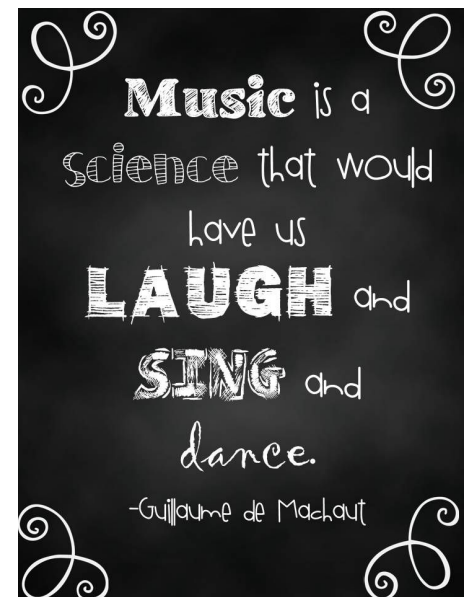
We will do music test-offs through Google Classroom. As soon as a final decision is made

on music, I will post cuts and cutoff dates. If your child is doing the work in class and at home, this will be a breeze.

Well, that's all for this month. I still have music to copy and a room to set up. I know your other teachers are doing the same. Let's make this semester a great one filled with success and learning.

Until next month!

Mr. G



Dogie Band Calendar

January

- 9th - Beginning of 4th Six Weeks
- 27th - TMEA All-District Band (For those who made the band)

February

- 16th - End of 4th Six Weeks. Must be passing to be able to participate in all events.
- 19th - Staff Development Day
- 20th - Beginning of 5th Six Weeks
- 24th - Region 7 UIL Solo and Ensemble Festival - Selected 7th and 8th Graders.

March

- 8th - 6th Grade Band Sandy Lake Rehearsal 3:30pm - 4:30pm.
- 12th - 15th - Spring Break
- 19th - 7th Grade UIL Contest Band Rehearsal 3:30pm - 4:30pm
- 22nd - Pre-UIL Concert for 7th and 8th Grade Band 6pm - 7pm
- 26th - 7th Grade UIL Contest Band Rehearsal 3:30pm - 4:30pm
- 27th - 6th Grade Sandy Lake Contest Band Rehearsal 3:30pm - 4:30pm
- 29th - 8th Grade Band Contest Band Rehearsal 6pm - 7:30pm
- 30th - School Holliday.

April

- 2nd - 6th Grade Band Sandy Lake Contest Band Rehearsal 3:30pm - 4:30pm
- 3rd - 6th Grade Band Sandy Lake Contest Band Rehearsal 3:30pm - 4:30pm
- 3rd - Sandy Lake Chaperone Meeting 5pm - 6pm
- 5th - Region 7 UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest TBA
- 5th - 6th Grade Band Sandy Lake Contest Band Rehearsal 3:30pm - 4:30pm *This will depend on the scheduling for UIL*
- 6th - 7th Grade Contest Band to Sandy Lake All Day.
- 13th - 5th Six Weeks Ends
- 16th - 6th Six Weeks Begins

May

- 4th - Chaperone Meeting for UIL Reward Trip
 - 10th - 8th Grade Band Spring Concert Rehearsal 3:30pm - 4:30pm
 - 11th - UIL Reward Trip to Six Flags All Day
 - 14th - 7th Grade Band Spring Concert Rehearsal 3:30pm - 4:30pm
 - 15th - 6th Grade Band Spring Concert Rehearsal 3:30pm - 4:30pm
 - 17th - GJHS Bands Spring Concert 6pm
 - 25th - Early Release/Summer Break Begins
-

Graham Junior High School Band

1000 Second Street

Graham, TX 76450

dogieband@grahamisd.com

www.grahamisd.com/grubbs

