



September 2009

Dear Parents,

Now that the school year is well underway, it is time to begin our combined middle school band rehearsals. Our first concert is scheduled for December 2nd which will be here before we know it.

**8<sup>th</sup> graders** will have rehearsals on **Wednesday mornings at Jefferson** beginning **September 30th**. Rehearsals will begin promptly at **7:10 a.m.** Washington students will be bused back to their school at 8:20 in order to be back for 1<sup>st</sup> period. The Washington/Jefferson 8<sup>th</sup> grade band has approximately 80 members this year. **In order to have everyone seated in the proper place and still have adequate rehearsal time, we must insist that students are in their chairs, ready to play at 7:10 a.m.**

**7<sup>th</sup> graders** will have rehearsals on **Monday mornings at Jefferson** beginning **September 28th**. Rehearsal will begin promptly at **7:10 a.m.** and will continue until 8:20 a.m. The Washington/Jefferson 7<sup>th</sup> grade band has approximately 90 members so the room will be very crowded. **It is very important to arrive at Jefferson early enough to find a seat and be ready to play at 7:10 a.m.** Washington students will be returned to their building by bus in time for their 1<sup>st</sup> period classes.

Participation is an integral part of the band program. Students who do not actively participate in rehearsals and performances benefit very little from being enrolled in the class. Consequently, attendance at rehearsals and performances makes up a large part of a student's quarterly grade. We ask your cooperation in seeing that your child attends all scheduled rehearsals. The administration and staff at both schools are aware of the early band schedule. Students are not excused from early band to attend athletic practices or other activities. Coaches and supervisors are usually very willing to work around early band rehearsals. If there is a problem, your band director should be notified at once.

As stated in the grading policy, students who have missed an excessive number of rehearsals for a concert will be excused from that concert. This number will be decided upon by the directors based on the number of rehearsals being held for that performance. Occasionally a student may have an excess of excused absences because of a prolonged illness or other valid excuse. Unfortunately, since it is impossible to perform adequately when one has not attended the required rehearsals, a student may be excused from a performance for this reason. In this case, missing the performance would have no effect on the student's grade.

**We thank you for your support and cooperation. These rehearsals are absolutely necessary in order to have the finest bands possible.**



Sincerely,  
Lila Fagan, Jefferson  
Mary Thompson, Washington