

# WCGS Junior High Music Program

June 3, 2010

Dear Junior High Students and Parents,

Music education is very important to us at WCGS. We believe that all students have a capacity to improve and enrich their lives through an aesthetic education experience such as music. Music has the ability to spark creativity and move us emotionally and spiritually. It is a gift from God!

Our Junior High program is committed to involving each of our students in music education. Each student, with varying talents and abilities, will have the opportunity to choose options that fit their individual gifts. We believe our music program will involve students where they will benefit the most.

Students in sixth, seventh, and eighth grade will be required to be in at least one music course in each of their Junior High years. Since all students have varied areas of ability, they may choose a variety of options to suit their strengths. Here is a description of each of these course options:

- Concert Band** This performing group is for students in grades 6-8, who have playing experience in brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments. Rehearsals: Twice weekly during 8<sup>th</sup> period. Requirements: Playing audition, one-year commitment.
- Concert Orchestra** This performing group is for students who have string or piano playing experience. In addition, there are limited openings for select woodwind, brass, guitar, and percussion students (both concert and drum-set experience preferred). Rehearsals: Twice weekly during 8<sup>th</sup> period. Requirements: Playing audition, one-year commitment. Woodwind, brass, and percussion students must also be members of Concert Band and will join the orchestra on occasion.
- Eighth Grade Choir** This performing group is designed for students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade who enjoy singing and performing in a large vocal ensemble. All students not in orchestra or band will participate in this group for at least the first semester. There will be auditions for the second semester choir that will participate in the Rockford tour and spring concert. Rehearsals: Twice weekly during 8<sup>th</sup> period. Requirements: At least one semester participation.
- Seventh Grade Choir** This performing group is designed for students in 7<sup>th</sup> grade who enjoy singing and performing in a large vocal ensemble. All students not in orchestra or band will participate in this group for at least the first semester. There will be auditions for the second semester choir that will participate in the Rockford tour and spring concert. Rehearsals: Twice weekly during 8<sup>th</sup> period. Requirements: At least one semester participation.
- Sixth Grade Choir** This performing group is designed for all 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. There is no audition for this choir. All students not in orchestra or band will participate in this group. Orchestra and band students may also participate. Rehearsals: Twice weekly during the school day. Requirements: one-year commitment.
- Jazz Ensemble** This performing group consists of trumpets, trombones, saxophones and rhythm section (piano, drums, bass, and guitar). This group is limited by audition. Rehearsals: Twice weekly during the school day. Requirements: Playing audition, one-year commitment. All students in Jazz Ensemble must also be involved in another performing group (Band, Choir, or Orchestra). See additional requirements under "Expectations."

## **Praise Team**

Praise team is a co-curricular group that is responsible for leading worship in our Junior High chapels. Since this is a co-curricular group, no music class credit is given for students in this ensemble. All praise team students must be a member of another music elective. This group rehearses once a week. On monthly chapel days, rehearsals will be held at 8:00 a.m.  
Requirement: Audition, one-year commitment.

## **Expectations**

Each music course, whether music class or performing group, will carry certain requirements and expectations. Grades will be given for each course and will contribute toward each student's overall G.P.A. All students in performing groups are **required to be at all rehearsals and concerts** as scheduled by the director.

Students may be in more than one performing group. If a student desires to be in band and participate in orchestra, they can do so by making special arrangements with Mr. Wright and Mrs. Knosp.

All performing groups will fulfill the junior high music requirement with two exceptions:

1) **Requirements for Jazz Ensemble:** Brass, woodwind and percussion students must also be members of Concert Band, and all guitar, bass, and piano students must also be in either Concert Band, Concert Orchestra or Concert Choir.

2) **Praise Team** is a co-curricular activity and all members must also be involved in another music performing group.

On the next page, please indicate which music course(s) you would like to take. All students must choose at least one course. **Auditions for Band, Choir, and Orchestra will be August 24 – September 3, Praise Team – Saturday, August 28, and Jazz Ensemble – 2<sup>nd</sup> week of September. See Mrs. Knosp and Mr. Wright for audition times.**

In order to better help us plan for this coming school year, we need your assistance in completing the attached form. **All forms must be returned to the Wheaton Christian Grammar School office no later than Friday, June 25, 2010.**

If you have any questions, e-mail them to [cknosp@wheatonchristian.org](mailto:cknosp@wheatonchristian.org) or [dwright@wheatonchristian.org](mailto:dwright@wheatonchristian.org), or you may call 630-668-1385 and leave a message for Mr. Wright or Mrs. Knosp.

We are looking forward to a great year of making music together!

Sincerely,

Carol Knosp  
Concert Orchestra  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir

David Wright  
Concert Band, 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Choirs,  
Jazz Ensemble, and Praise Team

**Music Electives  
6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Students**

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

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Please place an "X" in the box to mark your choice(s):**  
(All students must choose a minimum of one class)

Concert Band

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir

Concert Orchestra

Jazz Ensemble

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir

Praise Team

7<sup>th</sup> grade Choir

I understand the requirements and expectations as stated for the group(s) I have chosen and will make a commitment to my choice(s) for the 2010-2011 school year.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature

**Please return to the WCGS office by Tuesday, June 25, 2010.**