



Butler Music Dept Newsletter

Fall 2017

HISTORY OF ROCK CLASS NEW CURRICULAR OFFERING

6TH GRADE ORCHESTRA AT PGH OPERA

The Music Program expands course offerings

History of Rock

The History of Rock and Roll music course offered at the Senior High School has finally gone from the planning stages to reality. The one semester course will explore Rock and Roll from its very early days to the present time. Students will have the opportunity to learn about and share many different artists and influences on music that have created the music that is popular today. The course is offered to all students with an interest to learn about music.

Pictured above are students in the new class entering into a group learning activity where they are using their own technology tools to explore different ways in which the guitar has been influential over the years that it drove rock music.

The music department is excited about a course that can be a musical outlet for students of any and all ability levels, and Mr. Kroner teaches the class in creative and inventive ways.

Elementary Music

Music is now being offered to Kindergarten students at some elementary schools. The music department is working to create a sequential curriculum from grades K-12 so that all students can benefit from experiences in making music, and they can prosper in learning as they advance through the curriculum. The kindergarten class will see their music teacher once every five school days for a brief 15-20 minutes, where they will begin to learn tonal and rhythm patterns, sing and have fun engaging with music.

Center Avenue school has increased its music offerings for its students from elementary age up through 12th grade who attend there. Those elementary students will receive music instruction twice a week, and they will benefit from additional instrumental lessons. Additionally, work is being done to set up a keyboard lab, where older students can learn to play piano and experience aspects of music technology.

Mrs. Carrie Persichini is sharing music teaching duties with Mrs. Cortney Cristoforetti. Both teachers also teach elementary music at other elementary schools.

Because of his involvement in the Pittsburgh Opera Academy, music educator Matt Eckert was able to get free tickets for members of his Sixth Grade Orchestra to attend the May 7th performance of Pittsburgh Opera's *The Summer King!* *The Summer King!* is a world-premiere opera about Pittsburgh baseball legend Josh Gibson, a baseball Hall of Fame member. Gibson played in the Negro Leagues of the 1940s and paved the way for Jackie Robinson to break the color barrier into major league baseball. Sixth Grade Orchestra students are learning about opera along the way in instrumental music, and also performed a portion of the Prelude from Verdi's *La Traviata* in the Spring Concert last May.

HONORS CHOIR AUDITIONS

On September 28, students in grades 9-12 from the Butler Choral program will travel to Westminster College and audition for a panel of judges who will rate their tone quality, diction, accuracy of notes, rhythms and musicianship. Singers need to place in the top 12 of their section to be selected for the festival, which consists of the highest scoring singers from among Butler, Mercer, Lawrence and Beaver counties. The Honors Choir festival will take place from October 26 to October 28, culminating in a concert at 2 pm in Westminster College's Orr auditorium on Saturday, October 28. Admission is \$5 and you are encouraged to support our students. Good luck to all those who are auditioning!

CHOIR CONCERT OCT. 11

The Butler Senior High Choirs will present a free concert on Wednesday, October 11 at 7:30 in the Senior High School Auditorium. Groups to perform are the Concert Choir, the Women's Ensemble and the Mixed Ensemble. The choirs appreciate an early goal, and while it is difficult to perform a fall concert so soon, this provides a good benchmark for vocal growth and music literacy skills that will develop throughout the school year. Music performed will include a Philippino lullaby, spirituals, folk songs, and music by Mozart and Mendelssohn. If any parents can volunteer for cookies and donations, please email bryan_hesel@butler.k12.pa.us Additionally, the choirs are working on many fundraisers as they are raising money for their trip to Nashville, Tennessee, which will be on April 5-8, 2018. Thank you for supporting the many fundraisers and for supporting these students by attending their concerts and events!



Musical Guests

In May, Mr. Todd Karenbauer invited members of the "Messiah Brass" to play for the instrumental students at the Intermediate School. When possible, the music department reaches out to college and community performers. We are fortunate to have established many exceptional professional relationships.



Chamber Music

The music department is looking to help create small groups for performing and learning. These group would rehearse after school on Mondays. The groups would be student-led with the support of Mr. Kroner. Groups could include: Flute Ensemble, Clarinet Ensemble, Saxophone Quartet, Brass Ensemble, Woodwind Ensemble, Dixieland, Jazz Combos, as well as Trios and Duets.

Similar opportunities are available to vocal students after school with Mr. Hesel. We are excited to see which small ensembles might spring up throughout the school year!



150 6th grade chorus members sang the National Anthem for the Butler Blue Sox June 3. Great job, students and Miss Ali Pabrinkis.

Band Notes

The Golden Tornado Marching Band season is underway. After a successful band camp, the group has performed at PNC Park, the Pie Festival, and an away and home football game, each performance entertaining large crowds.

The band will perform at total of 8 games, 1 pie festival, 1 band festival, PNC Park Star Spangled Banner, 3 local parades, as well as their performance at the Santa Claus Parade in Toronto, Canada. The band currently marches 223 outstanding young men and women.

Through parades and at games, the band successfully acts as our musical ambassadors to other schools. Additionally, they and our band staff commends other bands for doing the same.

Band Quotes

"Band is a good experience for anyone who wants to learn anything about dedication" – Keera Gilliland

"Band is like a family. I'm excited to see Toronto with my friends from band." -Adie Cooper

According to drum major, Kayla Karenbauer: "Band camp went well this year. I feel like the season is going to go well, and I'm looking forward it. Everybody was pretty excited about the pie festival, and after we performed, it gave us a goal, and we were able to improve towards meeting that goal at the game. It's really cool being respected as a drum major."

Upcoming Events

- September 20: Butler Co. Band festival
- September 28: Honors Choir auditions
- October 10: Marching Band Indoor concert. 7pm. IHS Auditorium
- October 11: Senior High Choir Fall Concert. SHS Auditorium 7:30pm
- October 14 Ligonier Parade
- October 28: Honors Choir concert. 2:00 pm Westminster College
- November 11: Veterans Day Parade
- November 25: Butler Holiday Parade
- December 2: Butler Choirs with Butler Symphony (IHS 7:30 pm)
- December 5: 8th grade band 7:00 pm
- December 11: 5th grade choir 6 pm
- December 12: 6th grade choir 6 pm
- December 13: Senior High Choirs 7:30 pm
- December 14: 7th grade choirs at 6 pm (IHS), 8-9 grade choirs at 7:30 pm
- December 19: IHS orchestra 7 pm (IHS)
- December 20: SHS orchestra 7 pm (IHS)