7TH GRADE GENERAL MUSIC CELEBRATES MARDI GRAS

Butler Music Dept Newsletter

Spring 2017

GENERAL MUSIC

Choir News

Choral Masterwork

Every other year, the choirs at Butler Senior High School learn and perform a large choral masterwork. Past works have included Rutter's and Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Dobrogosz's *Mass*, Joe Negri's *Mass of Hope*, and the *Holocaust Cantata*, which was performed two years ago alongside a Holocaust survivor.

This year's masterwork was John Rutter's *Magnificat*, a seven movement work mostly in Latin. It was performed on April 5 with a professional chamber orchestra of 17 members. Donations are still being accepted to help defray the cost of hiring the orchestra. Mr. Hesel would like to extend his appreciation to the students and adult musicians who helped to make this a very special and successful evening of music.

Choir Party

Students in the ninth grade choir joined up with senior high choir students in February to celebrate music together. Each choir performed for each other, followed by a karaoke and pizza party. We hope that all the ninth graders will continue to sing throughout their high school career.

Graduation Song

For the past seven years, the final song that the Senior High Choirs sing is one that was composed by the students.

In the winter, students all write poems about the idea of making music while in high school, and what graduation means to them. Students then vote on the best of these poems, and their best stanzas are combined onto a handout. That handout become lyrics for smaller group projects, where students collaborate, choosing their favorite lyrics and setting them to a melody.

From there, each group's melody is recorded or notated, and once again, students vote for their favorites. The top six are edited, combined and compiled to make what becomes the graduation song. This year's is sure to be a showstopper, so be sure to join the senior high choirs for their concert on Wednesday, May 24 at 8 pm in the senior high auditorium.

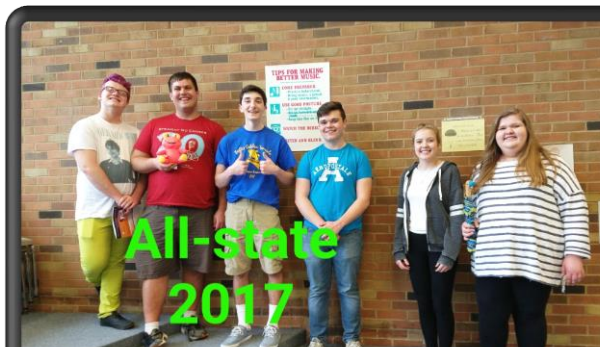
Pictured above left, 7th grade general music students got in character as they celebrated Mardi Gras by listening to New Orleans jazz music. Their focus was on jazz legend Louis Armstrong, who was "king" of the Mardi Gras parade in 1949.

Instrument Fittings

There will be an informational parent meeting on Wednesday, May 31 at 6:30 pm in the Butler Middle School Auditorium to explain the procedures for getting fourth grade students involved in the instrumental music program at Butler.

Mrs. Karenbauer, Mrs. Groves, and Mr. Eckert will be on hand to explain the process and schedule your meeting with music representatives from local vendors who can help with your instrument rental, and they will be able to help parents and students to make the decision about which instrument to try.

Making this decision now will help instrumental students and teachers to be able to get an early start on learning these instruments in the fall of their fifth grade year.



PMEA Festivals

Pictured above are students at the PMEA Jr. High District Band festival. Upper left are All-State choir, band and orchestra students. Below that are several pictures from Region Orchestra. Attending these events allows students to compete at the local and state level, motivating them to achieve greater musicianship. Additionally, they have opportunities to learn from a different guest conductor at each event. Some students learn where they will attend college by connecting with a particular director. Others come home with lessons to share with their home ensemble, and with a broader perspective on repertoire and how to achieve excellence at singing and playing with different ensembles. The last page of this newsletter lists the students and the festivals in which they participated. Below are PMEA-related quotes from students who benefited from these festival experiences:

Mckenzie Cooper: "If there's one thing I'll miss from high school, it's PMEA, because I met amazing people and had some of the greatest musical experiences of my life at festivals!"

Nina Grossi: "It was such a great experience to be able to sing with people who love to sing just as much as you. Everyone puts forth so much effort which makes a great concert in the end. I enjoyed every second I was there."



Grants Received

We proudly announce that for the 2017-2018 school year, the Butler Area School District music department will have enough recorders to provide instruction to every fourth grade student in every elementary school. Thanks to the generosity of the Golden Tornado Foundation and their Creative Teaching Grants, approximately \$1000 will be used to purchase recorders to service the entire fourth grade population.

Using the "Recorder Karate" program, the classroom music teachers will supplement the current music curriculum to include recorder instruction. This program provides a positive reward system where the students earn colored "karate belts" with mastery of each new concept.

Several elementary schools within the district already have a sufficient number of recorders and have implemented the "Recorder Karate" program in the past. Students have had success learning a new instrument which then aids with interest, motivation and future

discernment of band or orchestra instrument choices in fifth grade. The middle school instrumental teachers are also excited that students are applying their previously learned recorder skills to their new band and orchestra instruments.

The BASD music teachers are grateful for the opportunities many students have experienced with the "Recorder Karate" program and are excited to expand the program to include all fourth grade students. This expansion only strengthens our students' minds and the progression of our music department.

Summit Elementary students and staff have been through many changes in the 2016-2017 school year, and the Butler Area School District Music Department is proud to announce another positive change – a new digital piano. Thanks to the generosity of the Golden Tornado Foundation and their Creative Teaching Grants, approximately \$1650 will be used to purchase a new digital piano to benefit the entire population of Summit Elementary School.

With a digital piano, supplementing and

augmenting the current music curriculum can be done with ease. The music teacher can go to conferences and workshops, bringing back the latest ideas to use with piano support instead of relying on the textbook CDs for musical accompaniment. Using a digital piano can provide varied forms of accompaniment support, thus leaving students to use their singing voices and internal hearing at optimum capacity. Students and teachers no longer tire at the same accompaniment recording on a CD while learning a song – a digital piano can help the teacher improvise new accompaniments while still keeping the support for singing the correct pitches.

Summit music teacher Cortney Christoforetti is looking forward to the new digital piano. "I'm excited!" she said, "We can do so much with a new piano, and a lot if it will be student-centered." Her plans for the new piano include new music games for the students to learn and a holiday sing-a-long in December. "It will be great to adapt to students' needs on the fly," Christoforetti said. "If a song is too long for a particular group of students, I'll just transpose it up a step. Meeting students developing musical needs – that's what being an elementary music teacher is all about."

UPCOMING MUSIC EVENTS

Come check out the awesome music happening in
Butler Area School District!

Wednesday, May 3- 5th Grade Band & Orchestra Concert 7 pm @ BMS

Thursday, May 4- 6th grade Band & Orchestra Concert 7 pm @ IHS

Tuesday, May 9- SHS Band Concert 7 pm @ IHS

Wednesday, May 10- 7th & 8th Grade Band Concert 7 pm @ IHS

Thursday, May 11- 9th Grade Band & Percussion Ensemble Concert 7 pm @ IHS

Monday, May 15- 5th Grade Chorus Concert 6 pm @ BMS

Tuesday, May 16- 6th Grade Chorus Concert 6 pm @ BMS

Wednesday, May 17- IHS Orchestra Concert 7 pm @ IHS

Thursday, May 18- SHS Orchestra Concert 7 pm @ IHS

Wednesday, May 24- SHS Chorus Concert 8 pm @ SHS

Thursday, May 25- 7th & 8th Grade Chorus Concert 6 pm IHS

Thursday, May 25th- 9th Grade Chorus Concert 7:30 pm IHS



Congratulations to the following students whose successful auditions earned them a space in the PMEA Honor Ensembles listed below.

Honors Choir

Joseph Atkinson, Steven Beichner, Amanda Bishop, Leah Mills, Noah Reed

Honors Band

Mckenzie Cooper, flute; Nicole Laborie, flute; Sarah Neds, flute; Kayla Karenbauer, oboe; Keera Gilliland, *Bb* clarinet; Noah Reed, *Bb* clarinet; Gabby Finan, French horn; Dante Burns, percussion; Luke Walker, percussion

District Choir

Joseph Atkinson, Steven Beichner, Abby Cavanaugh, Mckenzie Cooper, Darian Gold, Nina Grossi, Noah Reed

District Orchestra

Mckenzie Cooper, flute; Nicole Laborie, flute; Kayla Karenbauer, oboe; Noah Reed, *Bb* clarinet; Gabby Finan, French horn; Dante Burns, percussion; Luke Walker, percussion; Jen Baum, viola; Sarah Hepfl, violin; Michelle Kenyon, violin; Olivia Montag, cello

District Band

Mckenzie Cooper, flute; Nicole Laborie, flute; Sarah Nedz, flute; Kayla Karenbauer, oboe; Noah Reed, *Bb* clarinet; Gabby Finan, French horn; Dante Burns, percussion; Luke Walker, percussion; Anna Kaufman, alto saxophone; Patrick Kriley, *Eb* contra alto clarinet, Phill Smith, euphonium BC

District Jazz Band

Dante Burns, Alex Downs, Kayla Karenbauer, Scott Zangas

Region Choir

Joseph Atkinson, Steven Beichner, Mckenzie Cooper, Noah Reed

Region Orchestra

Jennifer Baum, Dante Burns, Mckenzie Cooper, Sarah Hepfl, Michelle Kenyon, Olivia Montag, Luke Walker

Region Band

Dante Burns, Gabrielle Finan, Sarah Nedz, Noah Reed, Luke Walker

All-State Choir

Steven Beichner, Noah Reed

All-State Orchestra

Sarah Hepfl, Michelle Kenyon, Luke Walker

All-State Band

Dante Burns