Watzke’s Words

Bertha Barber Band September 2011

We are off to a fantastic start in Beginning Band this year and I couldn’t be more pleased with the progress the kids are making! There are still just a few students who do not have instruments in class yet. If this is the case for your family, please send a note with your child letting me know what the situation is and give me an approximate estimate on when they will have an instrument. I don’t want anyone to fall behind! Please also make sure your child has all of the appropriate accessories as outlined in the Accessories Handout that went home with the enrollment packet. Students playing clarinet or saxophone should have reeds (strength 2 ½) and cork grease. All brass instruments (trumpet, trombone, French horn, baritone, tuba) should have valve oil. Woodwinds (flutes, clarinets, saxophones) should have cleaning cloths. Please let me know if you have any questions about these items.

**Schedule**

For the remainder of the month of September, the students will meet for band every day\*. Woodwinds and bells will meet from 10:40-11:10 while Brass students will meet from 11:10-11:40. Please help your student to make sure to have their instrument, book, and a pencil with them each day they have class. I do keep records of this and will be notifying you if this becomes a problem. \**We will not be meeting on* ***Wed 9/14*** *or* ***Fri 9/31.***

**Practice**

As with any new skill, practice is essential for learning. Each day that we have class, I will be assigning 4-6 lines in their book as well as some mouthpiece exercises. As we move through the year, there may also be some additional music that they will need to prepare. Please help your child to find a quiet, distraction-free place to practice. Consistent, DAILY practice (20-30 min. per day) is the most effective. I also encourage you to have your child play for you once a week. This gives the student an opportunity to show you their progress and helps instill confidence in the young performer.

**Contact**

Email is the best way to reach me: [melissa.watzke@bpsne.net](mailto:melissa.watzke@bpsne.net). By phone, you can reach me at Mission Middle: 402-293-4286 from 2:20-3:00.