

We're off to a rockin' start with the Raider Band this year. Everyone is enthusiastic and excited and working real hard. I know many people were apprehensive about the reconfiguration, but I can honestly say that it's done wonderful things for band programs throughout LISD. Numbers are up on every campus, including Mackenzie. I am very excited about the future.

### **Symphonic Band**

This first six weeks has been a time of review and reinforcement for the top band. We have spent the time reviewing fundamentals and bolstering technique. We are just beginning to get into preparation for our first on-campus performance. In addition to the 8th-graders returning from last year's beginner class, we also have nine kids in the 6th and 7th-grades who played in band at their previous school. All of them came to our campus playing at an advanced level, and have really "spiced up" the competition within their sections.

We had our first performance at the annual LISD Band "Extravaganza". In addition to performing on the field with Coronado, Wilson, and Irons, our kids also took part in a massed band finale with 1500 other LISD Band students.

Finally, All-Region Band auditions are scheduled for the first Saturday in November. This does not concern all Symphonic band members, but it does involve quite a few. Your son/daughter knows if they are expected to audition.

### **Beginner Band**

This is where our numbers have really skyrocketed. At the present time, we have a total of 84 Beginners. After a slow start (all beginners start slow---no need to be concerned about that), things are beginning to take off, and the sounds you hear at home should start to sound like actual melodies. You can help make those sounds even more pleasant by encouraging your kids to practice daily. After all, you have made a financial investment in your child's instrument. I would imagine you'd like to see some return on your investment. A child who practices a mere 15 minutes per day will make tremendous progress. All it takes is your encouragement.

If your child is interested in trying out for percussion, that time is nearing. Look for something from me the week of October 23.

### **Upcoming Dates**

November 4---All-Region Band Auditions (selected members of the Symphonic Band)

November 17---Beginning Percussion Auditions

December 14---Band Christmas Concert

That's it for now. If you have any questions, feel free to call, email, or come by.

Thanks,



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