

# Huntington School District

## Department of Fine and Performing Arts

### Update on Elementary Music Rehearsals and Transportation from Director Joan Fretz

Elementary students in grades 4, 5, and 6 are now enjoying their participation in our district's bands, orchestras and choruses. Lessons and rehearsals are underway in all of the elementary schools. Here is a quick summary of what's happening now and what's starting at the end of November:

#### **Fourth Grade Music Programs:**

All fourth graders were invited to join chorus. Rehearsals are taking place once a week, during the school day, at each building. Band and Orchestra **lessons** started October 4<sup>th</sup>. These are small group instruction classes that students attend once a week, on a rotating basis in their school. The teacher will provide parents with a schedule of the day and time of each lesson.

Large group band and orchestra **rehearsals** for fourth graders will be held once a week at Huntington High School, before school, starting on Tuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup> for Flower Hill and Washington students, and on December 2<sup>nd</sup> for Jefferson and Southdown students. These rehearsals are very important, as this is when we put all the parts together to practice for the concerts. Parents should drop their children off at the high school at 8:00 a.m. The children will be bussed back to the elementary schools at 9:05 a.m. A security guard, aide, and music teacher will supervise arrival and departure, taking attendance for each bus.

**For families without car transportation, the district is providing a shuttle bus to bring the students to rehearsals at the high school. At 7:45 a.m. a bus will stop at each of the elementary schools (there will be a stop at 7:50 a.m. at Jack Abrams School) to pick-up any music students who need a ride to the high school rehearsals. SCOPE students at Jefferson will also ride a shuttle bus.**

The music teachers will provide additional information to fourth grade parents when we get closer to the rehearsal date.

#### **Fifth and Sixth Grade Music Programs:**

- Chorus rehearsals started on September 27<sup>th</sup> and are taking place before school, starting at 8:10 a.m. at Woodhull.
- Chorus students attend one rehearsal each week. Band and Orchestra rehearsals are starting on October 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Band and Orchestra students attend two rehearsals each week. Students are encouraged to be in Chorus as well as Band or Orchestra. (Please contact your child's music teacher for a Woodhull schedule.)

All Band and Orchestra rehearsals for Woodhull students will take place at Woodhull, *except* for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Band, which will be rehearsing at Huntington High School on Wednesdays and Fridays, beginning on October 13<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 a.m. Parents should drop their children off at the high school main entrance at 8:00 a.m. Mrs. Adams, the band director, is giving each child a yellow "security music pass" to display in the car window

so that you will not have to stop at the high school security booth to show identification. Students will be greeted by a teacher aide at the door. A security guard will monitor traffic and arrival. Attendance will be taken.

At the end of the rehearsal (9:05 a.m.), students will board pre-assigned busses and return to Woodhull. **For families without car transportation, the district is providing a shuttle bus to bring the students to rehearsals at the high school. At 7:45 a.m. a bus will stop at each of the elementary schools (there will be a stop at 7:50 a.m. at Jack Abrams School) to pick up any music students who need a ride to the high school rehearsals. SCOPE students at Jefferson will also ride this shuttle bus.**

If you have any questions about the music or art programs please contact Joan Fretz at [jfretz@hufsd.edu](mailto:jfretz@hufsd.edu) or (631)673-2106.