

♪ TEMPO NOTES ♪

♪ SPRING 2010 ♪

From James P. Dexter, Superintendent of Schools ~

Throughout this school year, we have seen a number of excellent performances by our students and performing groups. Once again, a significant number of students have participated in both curricular and extra-curricular performing ensembles.

Our winter concerts were impressive and well attended, and many of our students attended area all-state and all-county festivals. Our Marching Band appeared in a number of parades this fall, and will participate in the upcoming Memorial Day parade in Valatie. Many were in attendance at the April All-County Music Festival hosted by Ichabod Crane. Our high school musical is always one of the highlights of the school year, and this year's production of *The Wizard of Oz* was spectacular!

Students and teachers have worked tirelessly to arrange these strong performances; however, without the continuing dedication of TEMPO, these types of productions would not be possible. On behalf of the District, thank you for your dedication and service to our Performing Arts Program, and to our teachers and children. Please check the District's Web site at www.ichabodcrane.org to stay current with all of the District activities. Of course, one of the more significant activities is the District budget vote, which will occur on Tuesday, May 18, 2010 in the High School gymnasium. Given the fiscal crisis in New York, this is one of the most difficult budgets we have ever developed. If you have any questions about the budget process, please feel free to call my office at 758-7575, Ext.3002. I look forward to seeing you at various District events and concerts, and I wish you a happy and healthy end-of-the-school-year and summer.

COLUMBIA COUNTY ALL COUNTY FESTIVALS

Approximately 140 students from the Ichabod Crane District-wide Music Department were selected to attend the 2009-2010 Columbia County Music Festivals. Students participated in intense after school rehearsals on Wednesday and Friday. Under the direction of conductors from the Capital District, the experience culminated in a concert on the first Friday night in the months of February, March and April.

Students representing Ichabod Crane were chosen for the All County Band and All County Chorus. Students were chosen to represent the school district based upon teacher recommendation and student musical achievement.

NYSSMA SOLO-ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL

41 Ichabod Crane High School student music evaluations took place at the New York State School Music Association Solo-Ensemble Festival. This year, the Red Hook Central School District hosted the festival. Students participating in the festival were required to audition on a vocal or instrumental solo and demonstrate sight reading proficiency in front of a NYSSMA adjudicator. Several students auditioned for the All State Performing Organizations at this festival. Only students who achieve a 6 A+ rating will be considered for these prestigious organizations.

5th GRADE CHORUS UPDATE

The fifth grade chorus did an excellent job performing "God Bless America" at the Albany River Rats game in February. The students have worked very hard this year learning how to blend voices, memorize words, follow choral music, and add choreography to some pieces. They have been singing rounds in as many

as four parts, singing in unison, and in 2 parts as well.

5TH GRADE BAND UPDATE

This year's 5th Grade Band students have been working very hard to prepare for their spring concert. Students started out in September learning how to assemble, care for, keep a steady beat and make a sound on their instruments. After only 8 months, they are playing scales, some syncopated rhythms, and are able to play two or more parts independently. Be on the lookout for the sparkly blue yarns! These indicate the 5th Grade "Band Masters"! They will be on all instrument cases by the middle of May.

5TH GRADE BAND & CHORUS

CONCERT This year's 5th grade band and chorus are gearing up for their spring concert. Our performing groups have worked very hard in preparation for this performance. The concert will consist of three selections performed by the chorus, small instrumental ensembles, and four pieces performed by the full band. Miss Giammattei and Miss Davidson are looking forward to the spring concert and hope to see many parents, friends and family there.

4TH GRADE RECRUITING

Miss Giammattei has begun recruiting for next year's 5th grade band. She has met with all the fourth grade classes to discuss the instrumental music program. At these class meetings, Miss Giammattei spoke to students about the recruiting process, had current 5th graders demonstrate the instruments, and handed out paperwork for the fourth graders to take home to their parents. On Friday, May 13th the fourth graders will attend a 5th grade band and chorus concert at

which point the 5th graders will demonstrate the instruments for them one more time. Fourth graders are asked to choose their top 3 favorite instruments and submit their instrument choices by Monday, May 17th. Starting Tuesday, May 18th, Miss Giammattei will meet with students individually to tryout their three instrument choices and help them decide which instrument to play in 5th grade. On Wednesday, June 2nd, there will be an informational meeting for parents at 7:30 PM in the Martin H. Glynn auditorium. All 5th grade band sign-ups must be completed by Friday, June 11, 2010.

THE MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND

News from the Middle School Band Director:
The middle school has been very busy. In March, we had 30 sixth graders participate in the All County Elementary Band at Hudson High School. In April, we had 30 students also participate in the 7th and 8th grade All County Junior High Band at Ichabod Crane. The students really enjoyed working with new conductors and meeting new students from Columbia County. The concerts were a fantastic showcase of our talented youth. The middle school has been fortunate to have Miss Walls, a student teacher from The College of Saint Rose with us between March 8 and May 7. Miss Walls has been a wonderful addition to the Middle school program. I wish her luck in graduate school and her future as a music educator. On April 30th, the IC Marching Band visited the 7/8 Band with a presentation of marching repertoire and an introduction to marching. It was exciting to see 150 students lined up in marching band order in the front parking lot. The students really enjoyed listening and participating. Marching Band is open to current 8th graders who have a sports physical. Marching Band is a great activity for students who love to be outside, love to play their instrument and love to be with their friends. On May 6th we had the Saint Rose trombone quartet perform for the middle school jazz band. It was a great opportunity for the students to hear advanced players. On June 4th, many students will be participating in the NYSSMA solo festival. This summer during the month of August, Miss Seaver will be running the summer music lessons and jazz band program. Information will be handed out to the students and extra packets are available at the concerts. Summer lessons is a great way for students to remain active players and a great way to keep the momentum going. If you have any questions regarding the summer program please contact me at the middle school.

THE 'RIDERS' MARCHING BAND



- Membership in the 'Riders' Marching Band is open to:
- 1) ALL HIGH SCHOOL CONCERT BAND MEMBERS
 - 2) HIGH SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC STUDENTS WHO CAN NOT FIT BAND INTO THEIR SCHEDULE
 - 3) 8th GRADE BAND MEMBERS
 - 4) IC STUDENTS GRADES 8-12 WHO WISH TO JOIN COLOR GUARD
 - 5) IC STUDENTS GRADES 6-12 WHO WISH TO JOIN HONOR GUARD OR AUXILIARY SQUAD

Students should attend as much of Summer Band Camp, during the weeks of August 10th and August 16th, 2010, as possible.

THE 'RIDERS' MARCHING BAND PERFORMS TO ENTHUSIASTIC AUDIENCES IN EXCITING ACTIVITIES DURING THE FALL AND SPRING. THE GROUP TAKES PART IN LOCAL PARADES AND TRAVELS BY INVITATION TO EVENTS OUTSIDE OF THE COMMUNITY. REHEARSALS ARE HELD ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS, FROM 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M. DURING THE SPRING AND FALL.

A sports physical is required of all 'Riders' Marching Band members.

Thank you to Price Chopper for the donation of water which was sold for refreshments at Crane Acting Troupe' Production this year!

VOTE....Please remember to VOTE for the Budget on May 18th at the High School in order to preserve our music and performing arts department!