

Information on the MBA Junior Band Summer Camp at MBCI!

We want to make each of you aware of an important enrichment opportunity available to all Grade 6-9 band students. Each August, the MBA runs a week-long junior band summer day camp, located at five schools - Mennonite Brethren Collegiate Institute, Vincent Massey Collegiate, Hedges Middle School, Edmund Partridge Community School, and Springfield Middle School. These camps are geared toward students with 1-3 years of experience on their band instrument (although we always have a number of Grade 9 students who may have played for 4 years). This past summer, MBCI's camp was once again a huge success with 75 students coming from 22 different schools, and taught by 23 instructors. 18 students were from MBCI. Over the past 20 years, many MBCI students have greatly benefitted from these camps, and had a lot of fun meeting new friends with similar interests and values. The dates for this coming summer's camps are August 7-12, 2016. If you would like more information, contact us at school or the MBA. Click on this link for a registration form for any one of the five camps:

<http://www.mbband.org/?page=SBC>

It is very important that if you are interested that you register early - MBCI's camp location often fills up by the end of April, six weeks before the early registration deadline of June 15. As a result, a number of students who try registering at the last minute often do not get in.

The conductor for our camp is Mr. H. Andrew Wahl, who always brings his unique brand of inspired musicianship and warm humour to the podium. Activities include full band rehearsals, chamber ensemble rehearsals, sectional rehearsals and instrumental technique, Intro to Jazz Level I and II, Percussion Techniques, and outdoor recreation. First time students to the camp get valuable enrichment topics such as *Developing Good Practice Habits* and *How to Prepare an Honour Band Audition*. Returning students are given opportunity to learn the basics of composing, conducting, and other advanced topics.

Over 1000 young musicians have attended the MBCI camp over the past 20 years, with many returning for a second, third, or fourth year. Band camps have a positive influence on student's participation in other musical endeavors - honour bands, solo and ensemble festivals, and always enrich the school programs to which they return. Over the years at MBCI, we have enjoyed the benefits of many of our students going to various camps during the summer, with respect to their musical development, and what they have given back to MBCI the next year and beyond. Several senior MBCI students have also volunteered and worked at the Elmwood camp, some later entering the teaching profession as a result of their positive experience.

We want to heartily encourage each student to give serious consideration to attending an MBA Junior Band Summer Camp.

For more information on the Manitoba Band Association, its activities and projects, visit <http://www.mbband.org/>

Sincerely,

Mr. Klassen and Mr. Bergman