



The Scholars' Academy

An Accelerated College Preparatory School for Grades 6-12
27Q323, A Knowledge Network Teaching and Learning Organization
320 Beach 104 Street, Rockaway Park, NY 11694
Tel: (718) 474-6918 Fax: (718) 945-8958

Principal

Brian O'Connell

Dear Band Parents,

I would like to welcome all returning members to The Scholars' Academy Band Program. I hope your summer break was both relaxing and enjoyable. As we return, please make every effort to prepare your child for his or her instrumental music studies.

Your child must bring a working instrument to school no later than Monday, September 15, 2008, along with a good mouthpiece, as well as other supplies (such as reeds, valve oil, swabs, neck straps, reed holders, practice pads, etc.). We do not have many school instruments available this year (barring the exception of low-brasses) as the demand has exceeded the supply. Do not hesitate to contact me with more questions regarding where you can rent or buy an instrument. In cases of financial hardship, please e-mail Mr. Leicht.

Your child should resume his or her steady practice routine. Your child should work on long tones (holding a note as long as he or she can on one breath) and try to improve his or her sound with proper breathing techniques. When practicing with the *Essential Elements* book, your child should play through the book in order and not skip any exercises. Students should also practice their scales regularly.

Do not let your child be discouraged if he or she cannot play an exercise. Encourage your child to slow it down and work through each exercise carefully. Remember, a steady practice routine builds his or her long-term memory and increases his or her music reading skills. These practice techniques will prepare your child for the Winter Concert (TBA), Spring Concert (TBA), and St. Patrick's Day Parade (Saturday, March 1, 2008). Participation in the aforementioned performances is mandatory. Participation in this year's NYSSMA festival is strongly encouraged (May 1, 2, 2008).

I look forward to meeting you and your child, and having a successful year together. Encourage your child to work hard, and make sure they are prepared for rehearsals and lessons. Do not hesitate to contact me with questions and concerns. Your support is most appreciated.

Sincerely,

Alexander Leicht

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Area Music Retailers:

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Hewlett, NY 11557

(516) 569-1202

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Brooklyn, NY 11234

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Brooklyn, NY 11236

(718) 241-3330