

## HERE COMES THE BAND . . . FOR ITS 23<sup>RD</sup> YEAR IN HIGH POINT!

The first meeting day for the Beginning Band for the 2015-2016 School Year will be held on Thursday, August 20. This will consist of an Orientation-Registration session at which time Dr. Renfroe will introduce the program and answer parents' questions. Students do not need to bring their selected instruments to the session, which will begin at 3:15 p.m. in the Music Room on the campus of Hayworth Christian School, located at 1696 Westchester Drive in High Point. An opportunity will be provided for students who do not know what instrument they would like to learn how to play to try their hand at several different instruments and to talk to the band director.

The Beginning Band will meet every Thursday afternoon at Hayworth Christian School from 3:15 to 4:45 throughout the School Year. Cost for participating in the band is \$150 for the semester (approximately sixteen weeks of instruction), which can be paid in installments, if necessary. The fall term will end in mid-December with a winter-holiday concert. Then, a spring semester will begin in mid-January, with the same cost as the fall term, culminating in a final concert in May. Parents are responsible for obtaining their child's band instrument and an inexpensive band method book used by Dr. Renfroe, entitled *Best in Class, Book One* for the specific instrument that the student has chosen. An additional band method book usually is required for the spring semester as the student progresses to the next level in his or her playing ability.

There is no age limit for students who join the Beginning Band; however, based upon past experience, students younger than fourth grade may find it difficult to keep up with the demands required for learning to play a musical instrument. Conceptual learning skills are necessary as students are learning to read musical notation, which is comparable to learning a foreign language, and the ability to discipline self in order to acquire performing skills is not optional. Learning to play an instrument can be hard work, but once learned, the fun of playing in a band can outweigh the amount of effort invested in the process.

Students with a minimum of one year of experience playing in a band or taking private lessons on a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument are eligible to participate in the Advanced Band, which meets every Wednesday afternoon. An audition with the band director is necessary to determine placement in the Advanced Band. The Advanced Band will hold its first rehearsal of the 2015-2016 School Year in the Music Room on the campus of Hayworth Christian School at 3:15 p.m. on the afternoon of August 19.

Students who participate in the Advanced Band are responsible for providing their own instrument; however, music for rehearsals and performances is

provided by the band director. Cost for participating in the Advanced Band is \$150 for the semester and can be paid in installments, if necessary. The Advanced Band will also perform at the winter-holiday concert in December with the Beginning Band and will continue in the spring with a second semester of rehearsals, culminating in the spring concert, consisting of selections from Broadway, motion pictures, jazz, and other popular sources.

For more information about the Hayworth Christian School/High Point Home Schoolers band program, including the Advanced and the Beginning bands, please contact Dr. Dennis Renfroe at Laurel University (336.887.3000, Ext. 139) or email him at [drenfroe@laureluniversity.edu](mailto:drenfroe@laureluniversity.edu).