

## MUSIC NEWS

June 15, 2011

Greetings New and Returning Students:

We hope that all of you are enjoying your summer vacation. As we look at the calendar, school will be in session in approximately nine weeks, and as we reflect on that, it never ceases to amaze us how quickly time passes during the summer months. Yet as the school year approaches, anticipation and enthusiasm builds and we find ourselves sincerely looking forward to what lies ahead during the 2011-12 school year.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you about the various courses offered within the Music Department of HLA. This information is included along with all of the information detailing the various academic, spiritual, and co-curricular opportunities available at Hillcrest.

The 2011-12 school year promises to be a year in which students will have opportunities to learn basic to advanced musical concepts and have numerous opportunities to demonstrate what they have learned in front of an audience of their peers, parents, and the community at large. In addition, we offer a **Music Appreciation** course, which is designed to help students learn the basic elements of music (melody, rhythm, harmony etc.), the history of music including Jazz, Rock and Pop styles and an equal emphasis on listening to musical examples.. Let's begin with an outline of each course within the Music Department:

The **Fall Choir** will be meeting **1st Period** (8:25 AM - 9:08 AM) during the first semester. Rehearsals will be held at Bethel Lutheran Church, just across the parking lot from Hillcrest. This will be the only large choral ensemble class offered in the fall. Anyone in grades 9-12, interested in singing in a large choir, is invited to register for this course. No auditions are required to be a member of this group. The Fall Choir will be one of many groups performing at the **HLA Christmas Concert on December 10, 11, 2011**. In addition to the Fall Choir; Vocalise, the Concert Band, and the Jazz Ensemble will also be performing. For your information, the Christmas Concert draws close to 1300 people over two nights from our community, and many people from out of town/state travel to Fergus Falls in order to attend this concert each year. The first performance for the Fall Choir will be the High School Concert slated for **Saturday night of Homecoming weekend (October 1, 2011)**.

The **Concert Band** will be meeting for **0 period** (7:40 AM – 8:20 AM) this year. Everyone with prior performance experience on their instrument is welcome to participate, and auditions for chair placement will be discussed during our first week of rehearsals. This group will be performing for many concert events during the school year. (Homecoming, Veteran's Day, Christmas, All-School Band Concert, Graduation concert) Opportunities will also be made for participation in music contest, regional honor bands, and all-state band auditions. Our biggest event of the year will be our **Band Tour to the East Coast** in the spring – many more details will be shared about this trip as we start the school year in August.

The **Jazz Ensemble** is made up of members from the Concert Band, and we focus on jazz music in many styles from swing to rock to latin. We will also be working on improvisation skills throughout the school year to develop abilities as soloists. Performances include all regular concert events, music contest, and Band Tour. There are no auditions for this ensemble, but membership in the Concert Band is a pre-requisite for everyone in the group. Rehearsals are held during 8<sup>th</sup> Period on Mondays and Thursdays.

The **Concert Choir** will be selected by audition in November with rehearsals beginning in January. This Choir is open to anyone in grades 9-12 who wishes to sing in a more select group, and is willing to go through a "low pressure" audition. We will be preparing challenging choral literature from a variety of style periods throughout the semester as we prepare for **local and regional performances**. The Concert Choir will be presenting a full concert **March of 2012** at a local venue yet to be determined. In the spring of 2013, the Concert Choir will tour the eastern United States during the extended Easter vacation. **Students who are members of the Fall and Concert Choirs for the 2011-2012 academic year will have the greatest chance of being selected for the Concert Choir for the 2012-2013 school year.**

**Vocalise** is a select vocal ensemble (up to 16 members) which focuses on Vocal Jazz, Madrigals, and Sacred Classic choral literature. **Auditions will take place the first full week of school, Tuesday, August 23rd and Thursday the 25th beginning at 3 PM.** Vocalise will perform throughout the school year; Homecoming, HLA Christmas Concert, Concert Choir performances, and the High School Concert at Graduation. In addition, Vocalise will perform at a few civic functions in the greater Fergus Falls area and may be one of several groups performing at the Fergus Falls Center for the Arts in Fergus Falls in **May, 2012**. This group is open to members of the Fall/Concert Choir, who are willing to participate in a more rigorous round of auditions than

what is commonly done for the Concert Choir. Vocalise rehearses during the 8th hour, Tuesdays and Fridays, with occasional rehearsals on days when Chapel is not scheduled.

On graduation weekend 2012 (May 25-27), all vocal and instrumental ensembles will be featured at the High School Concert held at Bethel Lutheran Church, **Friday, May 25, 2012 at 7:00 PM**. In addition, the Concert Choir will perform at Commencement on **Sunday, May 27, 2012 at 10:00 AM** in the Student Activities Center.

**Music Appreciation** - will be offered during the 7<sup>th</sup> period in the Fall and Spring semesters. One important fact to note is that this course can be taken for one or two semesters for credit. This course is designed to expose students to music fundamentals and music history by examining popular music, past and present as well as the history of art music, or "classical" music as it is more commonly known. The material is communicated through lecture, discussion, and listening to music. Students are assessed through Chapter and Final Exams.

**Private Lessons** have been an integral part of the Music Department at HLA for over 60 years. Mr. Strom's area of expertise includes piano and voice. Lessons are held once a week for 45 minutes during the school day, and the rest of the days, students are assigned a practice room. For your information, there is an additional fee of \$140 per semester if you wish to take private lessons for credit. Those who wish to take lessons from me, should notify me as soon as possible because **I have room for only ten students**. When you contact me, please indicate which period of the day would fit into your schedule for private lessons. I am teaching classes Periods 1, 2, and 7. I have room for lessons in Periods **3, 5, and 6**. I with limited space in **Periods 4 and 8**. If the demand for lessons exceeds the spaces available, I will put you on a waiting list provided an opening occurs sometime during the school year. For those of you who will be studying with Mr. Strom for the first time, he would like you to provide the following information when you come to your first lesson: Make a list of the music that you have studied with other teachers over the past two years (to the best of your knowledge) and bring some of that music with you to your first lesson. If you have taken lessons previously, come prepared to play or sing a piece at your first lesson.

Just a reminder; if you are planning on being a member of the Fall Choir, please register for Choir during 1st Period. If you are planning to take piano or voice lessons from Mr. Strom, please fill out the form listed below, and attach it to an email and send it to me at [dstrom@ffhillcrest.org](mailto:dstrom@ffhillcrest.org).

Have a safe and fun-filled summer, and we look forward to seeing and/or meeting you for the first time in August.

Sincerely:

David Strom  
Choral Director/Private Piano and Voice  
Hillcrest Lutheran Academy

Stephen Doering  
Director of Bands  
Hillcrest Lutheran Academy

---

**NAME:**

**GRADE:**

**ADDRESS:**

I am signing up for \_\_\_\_\_ **(Piano, Voice)** (circle whatever applies to you)

I have taken \_\_\_\_\_ **(years)** of lessons in **(Piano, Voice)** (circle whatever applies to you)