

- AAA Home School Band -
Parents Meeting Minutes
9 September 2010

I. The meeting opened with prayer at 7:30 p.m.

II. The members present introduced themselves and shared information regarding the number of children each had in the band, and the instruments their children played

III. Ann Beach, AAA Band President, reviewed suggestions on how home-school parents can help their children succeed in band. Key thoughts included the need for discipline and routine in setting up and maintaining a regular practice schedule and taking time to listen and encourage one's student. Parents were reminded that the more a student works at home, the greater success he or she will have in the band. Parents were also told that if they played an instrument, they were welcome to join their student(s) in the band!

IV. Ann Beach, AAA Band President, provided an orientation to the revised AAA Home School Band website (www.aaaband.org), This included familiarizing parents with the layout of the site's Home Page and content accessible from the Home Page. Attention was also drawn to changes made in the handbook since it was first published during the 2009 - 2010 school year. The following material was highlighted:

A. On the Parents & Students page, attention was drawn to the Handbook, focusing the Code of Conduct, Dress Code (including Band uniform policy and purchase information), Band Fees, and the ever-present need for parental involvement, ranging from the need for Band officers (Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary) to the need for help with fund-raising efforts. The SmartMusic program was explained, and its costs, advantages and limitations discussed.

B. The use of Google Docs and the vital role this tool plays in Band scheduling was reviewed; in conjunction with Google Docs, the necessity of regularly checking the AAA Band website was emphasized. The Uniform Info page was gone over in detail, to include on-line sources for purchasing individual uniform components.

C. The final page discussed was the More News/CBB page. Key items on this page are the Christian Big Band rehearsal schedule and minutes of Parents Meeting (such as these).

V. AAA Band Director Barb Rollins then addressed the parents regarding a number of concerns, among them ensuring parents understood that checks to her were to be for lessons only; other payments should be made out to the AAA Band. Parents were strongly urged to regularly check the AAA Band website, and use Google Docs, as these were the primary means Barb has of communicating with Band families. She pointed out that two notebooks per student were required. Parents also need to provide verification of the home school groups to which they belong; this a requirement for home schoolers to participate in the All State competition. The quarterly motivation program will reward each student meeting the requirements for an "A" plus an additional 100 points with a pizza party hosted at the Rollins'. Other items discussed included seeking a volunteer to oversee the Band's FaceBook page, assistance with maintaining the Band's scrapbook, and reiterating that cellphones were not to be brought into the practice room.

VI. The meeting concluded at 8:48 p.m.

Submitted by John H. Beach
Acting Secretary