

WHAT CAN THE ST. MARY'S BAND PROGRAM OFFER YOUR CHILD?

The Gemeinhardt Company, a manufacturer of flutes and piccolos, recently completed several research projects in which parents of band students from across the country were asked to list the major benefits they felt their child had received by being in the band program in their school. Fifty percent or more parents participating in the project listed the following responses:

- Band provides a sense of accomplishment
- Band is learning responsibility
- Band provides teamwork experience
- Band teaches self-discipline
- Band provides self-esteem and satisfaction
- Band is fun
- "Good group of kids in band"
- Band adds to the quality of life of students
- Band provides a child the opportunity to gain an identity
- "No one sits on the bench in band"
- Band teaches deep appreciation of music as an art form
- Band provides lasting friendships
- Band teaches young people to make value judgments
- Band provides opportunities to learn leadership qualities
- Band provides better parent-child relationships

Dr. Frank R. Wilson, a noted San Francisco neurologist, claims the study of music helps the physical, mental, emotional, and social growth of students.

In his research, Dr. Wilson found it takes more of the brain to control the small muscles and, since it is the small muscles that are used by musicians - fingering tiny keys, pushing valves, etc., the development of the control of these muscles aid in the development of the brain. He further said his investigation pointed to a correlation between music study and muscular development, physical coordination, a sense of timing, mental concentration, the ability to hold up under stress, memory skills, and vocal, visual, and aural development. He said goals and methods used in music instruction could bring about a balanced, progressively refined development of the brain and neuro-muscular system.

Each of you has an opportunity to provide your child with the chance to participate in the St. Mary's School band program. Our informational meeting and band sign-up is **Tuesday, July 14, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Meeting Room at St. Mary's Church.**