



Hello, my name is Ruben Flores; I am the director of music at Dana Middle School. I am writing to introduce myself, and give you some information about the program at Dana. I would also like to welcome back returning families to Dana. The 2008-2009 school year will be my 8th at Dana Middle School, and my 10th teaching in the Point Loma area. In the last 8 years with the help of the community the program has grown from one big band class to now include an advanced band, intermediate band, beginning, advanced orchestra, beginning orchestra, and jazz band. All groups perform at school and community events throughout the year. Advanced groups perform all over including, Disneyland, Knott's Berry Farm, and the Del Mar Fair.

There are some issues you should consider when enrolling your student in an instrumental music class. The first is cost. Students must supply their own music supplies and instruments. Dana has many instruments, but not enough for every student. You can rent an instrument at a music store, the cost ranges from \$15-\$35 a month, a list of local music stores is included in this packet. Students who receive a Dana instrument will be required to pay an insurance fee of \$30 for the year. This fee covers major damage and theft. A list of instrument supplies can be found on our web site, and in this packet. Each student must have two uniforms for performance. The cost for both uniforms is around \$39, plus you must provide your own pants/skirt, black dress shoes and black socks/tights. Advanced groups take a trip to Disneyland, while the tickets for Disneyland are free, the charter bus we take costs money, about \$40 per student. We also have an overnight competition that costs approximately \$250. No field trip is mandatory, but they are a big part of the year. There are opportunities for students to participate in fundraising to help with the cost of the trips. These costs are common for instrumental students, but might come as a surprise to new parents. I hope I did not scare any of you off.

Finally, being involved in an instrumental music program requires some time outside of class. This includes weekend performances, a few before and after school rehearsals, and some light fundraising. Advanced groups require much more time outside of regular school hours. Students are also expected to practice at home at least 3 times a week. Please check the master calendar found on our web site for more information. If you would like more information about the music program our web site is loaded with information including uniform info, class syllabus, master calendar, and pictures and videos of previous years.

Sincerely,

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