

WESTVIEW GOLD

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

13500 Camino Del Sur, San Diego, CA 92129 (858) 780-2000

Dear Student and Parents,

March 2013

It has been a wonderful year! We have had much success and we are so proud of all of our students. We are looking forward to another great year next year.

Some of the experiences to be enjoyed next year:

- Performance Trip to Disneyland
- Hawaii Invitational – open to Band, Orchestra and Color Guard (if events align with our Spring Break)

Students and parents sometimes decide not to sign up for music courses due to academic reasons such as a desire to take AP classes, improve class standing, or raise their GPA. However, college admission offices often look more favorably on students who have taken music courses to balance the academic rigors of AP classes and a high GPA. They look at the amount of dedication and discipline it takes to stay in orchestra through all four years of high school. Colleges are looking for students that will participate in the culture of the school. They need students who will participate in their fine arts and athletic programs. Students do not need to be music majors in order to perform with college ensembles.

One parent whose child did all 8 terms in Band sent me the following message:

Our family decided to visit all the top schools and we quickly found out directly from all the admission counselors that schools look at more than just pure numbers or scores. They told us that high scores and an abundance of AP classes do not distinguish a top student these days, over 80% of the applicants will have the same high GPAs and SATs. Schools are looking for a “balanced” student, how successful they are academically while pursuing other time consuming passions. They look for consistency and depth in a few areas instead of showing a multitude of activities the student just tried for a few years as if to fill up a resume.

Counselors also told us that top colleges understand how rigorous and demanding was to participate in a competitive Marching Band program and that it showed that the student has the discipline and ability to be organized and focused.

Ultimately we are really glad our son stayed with the band program, not only because it gave him an edge in his college applications, but more importantly because high school only happens once, and along with his circle of friends that were like a family for the entire four years, they enjoyed together the hard work, long nights of practice and competitions, the camaraderie, and all those trip and tournament memories that will last a lifetime.

There is much data to dispel the belief that students participating in the Instrumental Music Program of Westview are unable to get into great schools.

But more importantly, as parents we know the importance and value of assuring that children have balance in their lives. Joy, relaxation, and creativity are essential for a quality life. Participation in school music helps children maintain a balanced lifestyle.

Please spend time discussing this with your child. We are available for a conference at your request and join you in the desire to provide the most valuable education possible.

Sincerely,

Jeri Webb

Director

Westview GOLD Bands and Orchestra