

January 17, 2023

Dear 5th – 8th grade parent,

We have exciting news! Grace Lutheran School in River Forest has decided to reinstate the annual Lutheran Fine Arts Festival. The festival will be held on Friday, April 28, 2023. This is a day filled with many musical opportunities. Vocalists and instrumentalists will be able to participate in a mass choir and/or mass bell choir as well as perform solo and/or ensemble selections before judges who will critique their performance. Other events in the Fine Arts Festival include: 2D or 3D art projects. Because our advanced band students had already committed to another event, they will not participate in the festival this year. The day begins with opening devotions and ends with a final concert highlighting the mass band, mass choir, and mass bell choir and solos/ensembles based on recommendations by the judges. These selections will do their best to represent as much variety of talent as possible.

All 5th-8th grade choir and handbell students will participate in the mass rehearsals and concert! In addition, if your child is interested in participating in one of the individual or ensemble judging sessions, please read the guidelines, fill out the attached form, and then turn in to Mrs. Becker by Tuesday Jan. 24th. If your child is only participating in the mass group(s), they will have the opportunity to watch some of the judging activities. We feel that this will give them a measuring tool for where they are in their musical career and where they would like to be some day.

Vocal Guidelines: Each student may participate in one solo entry and as a part of one ensemble entry in addition to the school choir entry. Because each school is only allowed 7 entries per category, we will have a preview concert on Wednesday, April 12th so that more students will have the opportunity to practice singing in front of an audience. **All vocal entries should be memorized.** Maximum number of people in one entry may be as large as desirable. All vocal entrants are required to be in the Mass Choir. Choice of musical selection is left to the discretion of the performer and their director/instructor. Judges will consider the level of difficulty in relation to the ability of the entrant in their evaluation. **Judges should be provided with the original copy of music that has all measures clearly numbered.** Music will be returned. No student composed pieces are allowed. If you are interested in entering a vocal solo or ensemble, you must fill out the attached form and return it to Mrs. Becker by Tuesday, Jan 24th.

Art Guidelines: Individual students are limited to one 2D **and** one 3D entry. 2D art must be matted or mounted. 3D art should have an appropriate base. A suggested size limit is 18-24". All art must be labeled on the back with the following information: student's name, grade, media, and school. All art must be made during the current school year. Judging will be based on originality, craftsmanship, and use of design elements appropriate to grade level. **All art registration forms must be turned in to Mrs. Becker by Monday, January 30th.**

For those students who will be participating in mass events only: There is nothing you need to do at this time. Just be aware of the date and that you will be performing in the concert that evening. We will send home more detailed schedules and permission slips when the date is closer.

Parents and other family members are welcome at the judging sessions and the afternoon concert. At the concert all students will participate in the mass choir and/or mass band and/or mass bells. The "Best of the Best" will be chosen by the directors based on recommendations by the judges and will do its best to represent as much variety of talent as possible. This selection will occur during the last mass rehearsal.

We will also need many parent volunteers to make this festival work. Please watch in the upcoming weeks for a volunteer sheet and consider helping us at this amazing event.

Fine Arts day is a “Dress Up” day. Choir and Handbell students are asked to wear concert apparel, no jeans or t-shirts.

Please feel free to contact Cena Becker with any questions.

We wish your students God’s richest blessings as they use the talents God has given them.

In Him,

Cena Becker, Shelly Pieper, and Kris Bartelt

The **tentative schedule** for the day will be as follows:

7:00 a.m. Load buses for Grace River Forest

8:30 a.m. Check In

9:00 a.m. Opening Devotions

9:30 - 10:15 a.m. Mass Choir/Solo and Ensemble Events

10:20 - 11:05 a.m. Mass Band/Solo and Ensemble Events

11:10 - 11:55 a.m. Mass Bells/Solo and Ensemble Events

12:00 - 12:30 p.m. Lunch

12:35 - 3:45 p.m. Large Group Judging/Solo and Ensemble Events

3:50 - 4:35 p.m. Mass Band/Solo and Ensemble Events

4:40 - 5:25 p.m. Mass Bells/ Solo and Ensemble Events

5:30 - 6:15 p.m. Mass Choir/Solo and Ensemble Events

6:20 p.m. Dinner

7:00 p.m. Concert (concluding approximately at 8:30 p.m.; Followed by clean up)