

## A few words about the Importance of Practice...

The Navigator Band Program prides itself on the tradition of musical excellence. Over the years the members of the various band ensembles have worked hard to continue to develop their individual level of musicianship. In doing so, their combined efforts have yielded many fine performances and musical memories.

As we progress through another school year it becomes easy for all of us to become a little complacent. Taking the success of our program for granted could easily lead to a decline in the quality of our performances. I realize that the band plays a different role in each of our students' lives. While some of our members find participation in band at the top of their priority list, others enjoy their participation as a part of their total educational experience. Regardless of priority, the quality of the Navigator Band is reflected through the total output of all the members. Our band is like a team, a family and we need each and every student musician to contribute to their fullest potential.

One of the most important aspects to successful band participation is the element of home practice. By taking a few minutes each and every night, students can reinforce the musical material learned in the day's rehearsal. They can work on various technical aspects at their own pace and continue to refine their skills and improve their technique and musical tone quality. Students who practice regularly at home tend to get the most pleasure out of band participation. They look forward to rehearsals and performances and take a great deal of pride in performing to the best of their abilities. These students help to insure that the Navigator Band will continue its tradition of excellence.

Please take a moment to visit with your students about this important aspect of their band participation. Let them know that you are proud of their work and that you support their efforts. As always, thanks for your continued support!

Sincerely,

Christopher Sutton  
Director, Navigator & Pathfinder Bands