

Dear St. Raphael Catholic School music student parents,

We (Amy McKalvey and Michael Woods) want to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves as your child's music teachers. Mr. Woods is the new middle school band director and 4th grade general music teacher and Ms. McKalvey was St. Raphael's general music teacher last year and is now teaching music to EC4 through 3rd grade students. Additionally, she is directing our new choir program to the middle school students. Since we will be a daily presence in your child's music education, we would like to tell you a bit about ourselves.

Mr. Woods was born and raised in Cincinnati Ohio. He earned his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from Manhattan School of Music and majored in percussion performance. After graduating from Manhattan School of Music, he joined the United States Air Force Academy Band in 1990 at Colorado Springs and retired from that organization in September 2012. In July 2014, he received a Master's of Arts in Teaching degree in Secondary Music Education from Colorado College. After graduating from Colorado College, he taught at Hargrave Military Academy in Chatham Virginia for three years and currently is excited to be teaching at St. Raphael Catholic School.

Ms. McKalvey graduated from the University of South Florida as a voice major with a B.S. in Music Education. Since receiving her degree, she has taught all levels of music in the Pinellas County Public School System; provides private piano, voice and guitar lessons, and has directed children and youth choirs in local churches. Ms. McKalvey also served as the Director of JAM (Jesus, the Arts and Me); an after-school program she developed. She uses unique teaching strategies to excite music students to learn music theory, as well as improve performance. Last year, Ms. McKalvey was excited to begin teaching EC-4 through 2nd grade music classes at St. Raphaels. She is blessed to continue teaching here and is thrilled to have the opportunity to launch a new chorus program this year.

Included below are the music performance dates/times and concert attire information for 5th – 8th grade Band and Choir students. All performances will be held at St. Raphael Catholic School. Please note that all performances are MANDATORY (unless granted an excusal) and are worth 35% of the students' grade.

14 Dec 2017 (Thursday) @ 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM: Christmas Concert

15 May 2018 (Tuesday) @ 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM: Spring Concert and Art Show

CONCERT ATTIRE:

1. Girls – Black dress/skirt (past knee when sitting down) and white blouse with sleeves, or slacks outfit; black hosiery and black dress shoes.
2. Boys – Black dress pants and white dress shirt; black socks and black closed toed dress shoes.

Please don't hesitate to reach Ms. McKalvey or Mr. Woods by calling the St. Raphael School

main office at (727) 821-9663 for any questions or concerns. You can also e-mail Mr. Woods at mwoods@st-raphaels.com or Ms. McKalvey at amckalvey@st-raphaels.com.

We are looking forward to meeting all of you at some point this semester and being part of this terrific school and music program.

Sincerely,

Michael Woods,
St. Raphael Catholic School Music/Band Teacher

Amy McKalvey
St. Raphael Catholic School Music/Choir Teacher