Dear Bonnie Cone Classical Academy Families,

It is with a full heart that I invite you to our **Whispers of Winter Concert on December 17, 2026!** Our scholars are preparing something special, and I am so excited for you to experience the joy, confidence, and musical growth they will share on stage.

Over nine weeks, scholars will learn their songs, develop their musical skills, and practice performing together with their grade levels. Along the way, they are also learning to listen carefully, support one another, follow directions, and contribute to something bigger than themselves. A concert gives these lessons a meaningful purpose and gives every scholar the opportunity to say, “Look what we accomplished together!”

Across the past four concerts I have directed at Bonnie Cone Classical Academy, I have watched our scholars’ excitement grow. They look forward to these performances and take pride in sharing their work with friends and family. Their dedication has helped our music program come such a long way over the past two years, and it continues to grow. They are successfully learning music above their grade level, and their love for music is truly inspiring.

This concert is entirely winter themed and is designed to be inclusive of every scholar and family. It does not celebrate or observe any holiday. Our songs focus on December, winter weather, winter foods, snowmen, and other seasonal topics. Attached are the song titles and listening links so you can enjoy the music together as a family and hear what your scholar has been learning.

The concert performance is an assessment worth 40% of each scholar’s final music grade. I believe music is best learned through experience—by singing, listening, moving, creating, and performing. Instead of a written test, this performance allows scholars to demonstrate the skills they have spent nine weeks developing. It also recognizes the care, effort, and dedication they bring to their learning.

An alternative assignment is available for scholars who are unable to participate. While it provides another way to demonstrate learning, my hope is that every scholar can experience the confidence, connection, and sense of accomplishment that come from performing with their peers. If a family emergency or illness beyond your scholar’s control prevents participation, the absence will be excused. **Please provide written notification so I can document and excuse the absence.**

Scholars must also wear the **required concert attire** to participate in the performance. Scholars who are not dressed in the appropriate attire will not be able to perform. If your family needs help obtaining any required items, please reach out to me privately ahead of the concert. I will gladly help provide those items so your scholar can take the stage feeling comfortable, confident, and prepared.

We kindly ask families attending in person to **remain for the entire concert**. Every grade level has worked hard and deserves an attentive, encouraging audience. Arriving and leaving during

performances can distract scholars and interrupt the experience for other families. Staying until the end is a wonderful way to show our children that every performer's effort matters.

We understand that work schedules and other obligations can make attending in person difficult. **This year, we are offering a virtual viewing option** so families can still enjoy the concert and celebrate our scholars' accomplishments. Details about virtual access will be shared before the event.

Thank you for encouraging your scholar, making space for music in your home, and supporting our growing program. It is a privilege to teach your children and watch them discover what they can accomplish. I cannot wait for you to see their hard work shine during *Whispers of Winter*.

Musically,

Ms. Natalee Burger-Highman
Elementary Music Teacher
Bonnie Cone Classical Academy