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Journalism

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Academy House Rock

Nothing beats eating fresh pizza right before performing at the annual Scholarship Dinner, with the gym transformed into a huge, fancy dining room filled with people. The ICJA Band gets the honor to perform every year (besides for 2019 - 2020, because of the COVID - 19 pandemic) and it is a thrill. This is one of the highlights of being part of the ICJA Band.

The Band is part of the Sam Bernstein Music Program, which encourages young musicians to pick up an instrument and learn how to play it. There is a large variety of skill levels in the band, from students who are fluent in their instrument to students who want to learn how to play. Music House Chicago , a performing arts school whose faculty come to ICJA to be the Band Directors, provides the instruction. This year we have Tommy Versoni, who hosts weekly Zoom meetings from 6:30 - 8:00 on Thursday evenings to coach students on the song the band is working on. The Band has drummers, guitarists, pianists, vocalists, and violinists, and Music House is ready and happy to teach all!

When the pandemic is over, the plan is to go back to what was done normally. Thursday during 5th - 6th period, the Band meets up in the band room and makes a list of songs the band members want to learn. We spend most of the time jamming out and

having fun making music together. It takes patience and determination, but the fellow band members and senior leaders are always available to help. The senior leaders this year are Noah Brody on drums, Yamin Elkaim on guitar, and Moshe Lodkin on violin.

We want you to succeed in your instrument, and even if you don't end up playing the instrument after you finish your four years at ICJA, you will have picked up essential skills in team work, learning methods, patience, and leadership.