



The Republican.

Kane camp expanding offerings

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WESTFIELD - The Dan Kane Singers got a new camp, a new room and a new show.

The popular summer program is growing further, offering two camps for children ages 6 to 16 this year instead of just one.

A two-week singing camp will start for the fifth time at Westfield North Middle School on July 2. It is already sold out.

But enrollment is still open for a new summer band program that will run from July 16 to 27 at South Middle School.

"We thought it was time for a band program," said Daniel J. Kane, musical director of the group and of the programs. "Students are home from school for 10 weeks, and it's too long for a musician."

The singing program, the only one in Western Massachusetts that offers talent enrichment activities for young singers and teaches different music-related skills, is sold out already, he said. It became especially popular after Ashley Gearing's country ballad broke into the Billboard charts several years ago. Gearing, who is now 15, was a Dan Kane Singers camper from the beginning.

About 150 children signed up for the singing program, which costs \$330.

"For the band program, we are looking at some 50 kids, but we probably can take up to 100," Kane said.

The cost of the band program is \$300, which is a bargain, he said, considering the chance to have a couple of weeks of "American Idol"-type of experience.

"The children will come and play the music they know and love, the music from radio, or TV or movies," he said.

Applications for the band program may be downloaded from www.dankanesingers.org

"The kids have to have a minimum of one year of school or private lessons and they may play any instrument, with an exception for a string section," he said.

Each of the programs has six different music teachers.

Kane just got his own radio show that he will host every Saturday, 11 a.m. to noon at Real Oldies 1250 AM-WARE in Palmer.

"The show is sponsored by the Hannoush family and its main goal is to highlight local and regional talents,"

Kane said.

His long community service has been appreciated recently by Westfield philanthropist Albert Ferst who donated \$25,000 to dedicate a music room to The Dan Kane Singers at the new Amelia Park children's museum.

"We are very proud and honored by that," Kane said.

For information about the programs, call (413) 568-8036.

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