



ER Band Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 2

October 1, 2007



Music Notes

By H.S. Director Adam Gumbrecht

Hi everyone... .

WOW! What a busy September! Already, we've completed most of the performances on our marching band calendar— we still have Grand Ledge (10/3), Homecoming (10/5), MSBOA Festival (10/20), and the Greyhound Spectacular (10/24). Please keep these items noted on your calendar.

With all these things done, concert band is right around the corner. Many of our students don't perform on their concert instruments during marching season. ALL students in this boat need to be practicing on their concert instruments. There is not gradual shift from marching to concert band— it just happens one day and then we're going full speed ahead. If you haven't already, time to dust off that concert instrument and get practicing.

By now, the first information regarding our April trip to Chicago has been sent home and that information should be available on the website soon (if not already). The first payment of \$80 is due by October 9th. There are still some questions that many students have asked that I didn't think of at first so I am still looking for some answers but the big ones are this:

- YES— you can make the first three payments all at once but it needs to be by the October 9 due date. We can't take all your payments at the end— the tour company just won't allow that.
- YES— we do have some open seats for sale but they are available to band families ONLY at this time.
- NO— if you have family that lives in the Chicago area, students may not opt to stay with them instead of staying with the band— this is a HUGE liability issue.
- At this time, I am saying that NO— if your family traveling to Chicago, you may not ride with them and you must ride the bus (again for liability issues). This one, though, I'm checking on with the principal to see if I'm wrong (but I really don't think so).
- YES— you can get a refund if you put money towards the trip and then change your mind later. There are conditions, though, so check the first Chicago notice.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about this trip.

Just as a reminder, attendance at Wednesday night rehearsals and sectionals is REQUIRED. All we ask is that if you have some kind of schedule conflict, students let myself AND their section leaders know about the conflict ahead of time (sometime before the day of the rehearsal). I have several students whose attendance at these events has not been very good and you need to know that that will be reflected in the grade.

Thanks for everything folks and drop me an email if you have questions!

President's Corner

By Kathy McWilliams

Welcome to our new 5th grade band families! Lori Althouse, the booster officer who represents Greyhound Intermediate and the Middle School, and I were happy to help with 5th grade instrument rental night. The students were so proud to get their new flutes, clarinets, trumpets, saxophones, trombones, drum kits, and everything else. One of the Marshall Music folks remarked that over and over they heard sons and daughters saying "thank you" to their parents! And we in boosters say "thanks" to parents also. *Your children* are the future of this band program, and *you parents* are the future of this booster organization. We hope this newsletter gives you important information about your student's band as well as a glimpse of what the other bands are doing. Welcome to the ER band program!

And now to other news...

Seniors (and their parents): We may have to do senior night (with the flowers and so forth) on a different night than Homecoming. Stay tuned.

Do you love to throw a good party? Jean Burk is heading up our annual Swing Dance next March 1st. We decorate the Old Gym around a huge dance floor, and both the Middle School Jazz Band and the High School Jazz Band play (and we usually have a guest band too). This is Jean's last year with band boosters (her son, Seth, is graduating in June). Jean would love to have a partner to help with the Swing Dance – someone who will take over the Swing Dance next year and can learn the ropes from Jean this year. This is a perfect opportunity for someone who always wished they'd been on the prom committee back in high school, but never got the chance (or did get the chance, and wants to do it again). Curious? Contact Jean at Marfitz219@aol.com or 663-6959 for more information.

Tux Jackets: We are missing 15 of our 60 tuxedo jackets. Is there one in your son's closet? Did you borrow one for the prom or for senior pictures? It's time for that jacket to come back home to the high school band room – pronto! We'll need every jacket for the holiday concert. Thanks.

Middle School: Did you know that 7th and 8th grade bands are the only bands who give a concert in the auditorium in the Fall? Everyone else has to wait until Winter. So come hear both the Middle School bands on October 17th.

Football Tailgating: Eric Larson is setting up his grill in the stadium parking lot (southwest corner) at 6:00pm before home football games. All band parents and friends are welcome. Free hot dogs grilled to perfection! Bring a dish to pass or snacks to share, chairs, your own drinks, and a great appetite. Questions? Contact Eric Larson at 646-0256.

Colorguard: Don't they look great on the field with the Marching Band? Thanks to Linda Clarke and all the other folks who've been sewing and helping with Colorguard.

Marching Band Pit Crew: Just a quick shout-out of *thanks* to the parents who are helping with the pit. The music wouldn't be happening without your help!

Wreath Fundraiser: Watch for information coming home with your students (5th-12th grades) about the Christmas Wreath sale. We sell beautiful, locally-grown, hand-made wreaths, garland, mailbox swags, and centerpieces for the holiday season. This sale happens early (before you're really thinking about Christmas). We take orders during October, and delivery is usually around Thanksgiving weekend so that you can enjoy your greenery all season long.

Scrip: This is a great way to raise money for your band expenses. See the band website (www.erbands.org) for info. If you have questions, contact Juli Luttrell at 517-663-3573 or erbandscrip@hotmail.com.

Marching Band Parents: Mr. Gumbrecht will assign sections (trumpets, clarinets, etc.) to bring snacks for the Marching Band for home football games. When it's your turn, please keep this in mind... Things that stain uniforms (chocolate, Cheetos, etc.) are BAD. Don't send them. GOOD things are apples, peanut butter cookies, oatmeal pie-type Little Debbie treats, Rice Krispie treats (w/o chocolate chips), fruit snacks, pretzels (w/o cheese), and so forth. Send things that can be handed out in the stands (as opposed to scooped out of a serving dish). That hungry Marching Band thanks you soooo much!

Other Ways to Volunteer

Contact Kathy McWilliams at 663-8940 or erfamily@ia4u.net to help with:

- ? Concert Support (cookies, etc.)
- ? Lock-boxes for the directors' offices (installing them)
- ? Christmas Wreath sale (in October/November)
- ? ValuCard sale (next January)
- ? Solo/Ensemble music festival (next February)
- ? Swing Dance (next March)

Don't Miss: The big hoo-haw Marching Band performance of the season when we take our halftime show to the MSBOA competition on October 20th (rain date October 27th) at the Jackson Northwest High School stadium. We usually get an evening performance time, and if you go early you can watch other marching bands too. It's great fun, and an opportunity for younger students to see what happens in Marching Band.

Next Booster Meeting: Tuesday, October 9th, at 7pm in the high school band room.

Band Photos

Many of you already know that photos of the band are taken at almost every event and posted online. For those of you who don't, they can be viewed online at www.burrheadphoto.smugmug.com. There is also a link to this site at the bands website which is www.erbands.org. Last years photos have been removed and are now being replaced with this years events.

These photos are available for purchase. Dan Mecham is now offering 5x7 prints as well as 4x6 prints. The 5x7 photos are \$3 each and the 4x6 photos are just a \$1. The great thing about this is that half of every sale goes to the band's general fund so you are not only getting some nice photos, but also helping the band program.

To order, you can contact Dan Mecham via email at burrheadphoto@yahoo.com or by phone at 517-582-0487. Please state the gallery the photos are in (ex. Frontier Parade), the file name (dsc_????) and size wanted. Dan will then confirm with you the cost, touch up the photos a little and have the photos to you in about a week. You can also buy them directly through his website. The advantage to ordering online this is you may crop the photo however you would like although very tight cropping will result in a grainy photo. The disadvantage to ordering online is these photos are usually not enhanced and there are shipping charges.

Thank you,

Dan Mecham

(517) 582-0487

Please visit my website: www.burrheadphoto.smugmug.com "Life is short...capture it with pictures."

