Warrior Band News

MAY, 2008  VOLUME V, NUMBER 1

Letter from Dr. Andry

Dear band parents and students:

We are proud to have you as a member of the St. Michael High School Marching Band! You have joined what will soon become an elite group of students who will be working together as a team to accomplish many goals throughout the upcoming year.

Band camp will be held this year July 28, - August 1, from 8 am – 4 pm at St. Michael High School. Percussion Camp will be July 21 -25 from 9 am – 2 pm. Band Camp attendance is required by all instrumentalists, color guard, and dancers. (Only varsity football players are exempt). During band camp, we work on marching fundamentals and begin to learn our competition show. Once school begins, we have only three weeks to prepare for our first performance! For camp, you are to bring your instrument, flip folder, lyre, and pencil. You also need to pack a bag lunch. No one will be permitted to leave campus to pick up lunch. We will provide lots of water, fruit, popsicles, and PowerAde.

Parents, we will be working outside until noon every morning. I highly recommend that students bring sunscreen. Students will receive breaks and will be encouraged to keep hydrated. Each year, we have a few students who have gotten used to sleeping until 11 am every morning (fondly referred to as “couch potatoes”) and they find that the early morning heat is too extreme for them. I recommended that these students get out and get some exercise before band camp starts. I’m sure you parents can find some really wonderful chores that they can do around the house and yard to start exercising. I also recommend that students eat something for breakfast before they get to school. Adolescents need to eat breakfast to keep their blood sugar levels at a normal level during exercise in hot, humid conditions. Students should wear comfortable shoes (no sandals), a hat, and shorts.

There will be an activity fee for all band students this year of $30. This fee helps to defray some of the expenses incurred by the band boosters organization including props, “Band Night,” hardware, and other miscellaneous expenses that add up fast. This fee is due by the first day of band camp.

If you have any questions or concerns I can be contacted via email at home (kandry1@cox.net) or at school (kandry@smhsbr.org). Please note that I also have a blog site where you can check important updates and you can actually post comments and ideas yourself. It is located at www.docandry.edublogs.org.

Musically yours,

Kevin M. Andry, Ph.D.
Director of Bands
St. Michael High School

Help Needed!

We are in need of volunteers to help with Band Camp hydration. Volunteers need to be available during the mornings of July 28 – August 1, from 8 am – 11 am. We are also welcoming donations of fresh fruit (bananas, orange slices, and watermelon), and popsicles to help keep students well hydrated. If you can help any of those mornings, please contact Angie Simoneaux at scosimo@bellsouth.net.

Our 2008 Show is a Key Poulan Composition Titled Amazonian Rainforest!
St. Michael has established a great tradition of achievement in the past, so most members should have a good understanding of the level of dedication required to reach the goals of the ensemble. These written guidelines will assist new members and refresh veterans of the ensemble's expectations.

1. All rules and regulations governing conduct established by St. Michael High School, as well as those of the band program, apply to all members. Everyone’s responsible participation is crucial to our success. If someone has to be let go from the band as a result of misconduct, it would be harmful to everyone.

2. Attendance at all scheduled rehearsals and performances is mandatory. Conflicts with any aspects of the schedule should be brought to the attention of your instructor IN WRITING (email from a parent is acceptable) as soon as possible. Remember to plan ahead with your school workload. Staying home from rehearsal to finish a big project that you left until the last minute is understandable but still results in an unexcused absence and will affect your grade in band. Also, inform any employers of the ensemble’s schedule. Absence due to work is unexcused as well. If you are in sports, it is crucial that we discuss your complete schedule during band camp.

3. If at any time during the course of the Marching Band season, you have a concern, question, or idea, do not hesitate bring it up. Open communication regarding all aspects of what we do, from attendance to attitude, will be crucial to your success.

Rehearsals:
During marching season, we rehearse from 3:00-4:30 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. (Thursday rehearsals will be on Wednesdays when we have a Thursday football game). Our first after school rehearsal is scheduled for Tuesday, August 7th. Percussionists have an additional rehearsal on Wednesdays from 3:00 to 4:30. As the season progresses, the Wednesday rehearsal may be shortened or removed entirely.

Grading Procedures:
Students receive a grade for each rehearsal or performance. Each rehearsal is worth 50 points. Each game performance is worth 100 points. Formal concerts are worth 200 points. Students also receive grades via playing tests throughout the year, written quizzes, a written midterm, and a written final.

Absences and Tardies:
Unexcused absences and tardies will be dealt with severely. An unexcused absence from a performance or rehearsal results in a zero for the student’s grade for that particular event. An unexcused tardy from a performance will result in the lowering of the student’s grade by a quarter of its total. These regulations will be upheld, baring any extenuating circumstances, i.e. doctor’s excuse, death in the family, etc. Decisions shall be made at the director’s discretion.

Uniforms:
Each student will be issued a band uniform to be worn for marching band functions (during cooler weather). These uniforms are dry clean only and will remain at school. Each student is responsible for getting his/her uniform dry cleaned at the end of the year. Each student will purchase a lightweight band shirt to be worn as a uniform during hot football games, spirit days, and for pep band functions. Students are to purchase a black band shoe and black pants, which will be worn with the shirt. The shoes (Dinkles) will be ordered during the first week of school.

Supplies:
All students (except percussionists) are required to have a flip folder and a lyre before band camp. All students will be responsible for all music issued. Students will be charged $.50 a copy for any music that is lost or destroyed. Students are to have a pencil with them at all times. It is also recommended that students have a water bottle with their name on it for practices.

Classroom Rules:
1. Have your instrument, music, and pencil with you and be ready to begin work when the conductor steps on the podium.
2. Do not talk or play your instrument while the conductor is on the podium unless you have permission.
3. Give undivided attention in rehearsals.
4. Accept all criticism graciously and praise humbly.
5. Make every effort to show continuing progress by preparing all assigned work thoroughly.
6. Take proper care of your instrument, music, uniform, and all band room equipment, whether it is yours or the school’s.
7. No food, gum, or drink allowed in the band room.
8. Treat others with respect at all times.
9. Return all instruments and music to proper storage areas after each rehearsal.
Football Game Policy:

1. Students are to remember that this is a school function and all rules set forth in the Student Handbook are to be followed at all times.
2. Students are excused after our halftime performance until there is five minutes remaining on the game clock in the third quarter. They are to remain in full uniform and are to use this time to get water and use the facilities. Students who are not back on time are marked tardy (see Absences and Tardies).
3. The drum major is in complete command of the band when the band director is not present. Students are to stay alert, watch the drum major, and be prepared to play at any time.
4. Everyone will travel on the bus to and from all games. No one will be allowed to ride with parents, friends, etc. Under certain circumstances, students may ride home with a parent at the end of a game providing I receive a written notice from the parent at least 24 hours before the game and that student is to ride home with a parent only (no siblings, girlfriends, boyfriends, etc.).
5. Everyone is responsible for his/her own music, instrument, and equipment. In addition to their own equipment, a loading crew, consisting of ninth and tenth graders will assist in loading ice chests, coolers, cups, first aid kit, and any other equipment needed. All percussionists are to work together to carefully load and unload their own equipment.
6. There will be NO food, drink, or gum allowed on the busses.

Game Day Protocol for Band Student Supervision:

All students planning to leave campus must do so by 2:45. Students who are staying on campus until we leave for the game will be permitted to stay in (1) the band room (2) the hall directly outside the band room, or (3) the quadrangle immediately behind the band room. If they want to purchase soft drinks or other concessions, they must do so by 2:45. They will be allowed to use the bathrooms on the first floor of the Fine Arts Building only.

As students (those who have left campus by 2:45) return, they are to join their fellow students in the above mentioned designated areas with the addition of the area immediately behind the band room where the support groups will be loading busses and the trailer with instruments for departure.

The band director will solicit help from volunteer parents to help with supervision should he have to attend to professional or "personal" needs.

Prior to departure, the band, dancers, flag corps, and cheerleaders shall assemble in the band room for final instructions and a prayer before we depart.

Upon arrival at the stadium, all support groups will unload and prepare for the game. Support groups will march into the stadium, usually, 30 minutes prior to the start of the game. Once the game has begun, students must remain with their groups until after the halftime performance. After the halftime show, students are allowed a break to attend to personal needs until there is five minutes left on the game clock in the third quarter.

At the conclusion of the game, support groups assemble and march out of the stadium to the busses. Those riding home with parents (notes received in advance 24 hours prior to the game) are dismissed at that time. Busses then return to campus. Upon arrival back on campus, students and parent volunteers help to unload the trailer. Students have 15 minutes after band director locks up to have a ride home. The last teacher/coach leaving campus locks the gates.
Dear Band Parents:

Welcome to what has become the most enthusiastic and effective support group in the St. Michael family, the St. Michael Warrior Band Parents! Band parents are integrated into every phase of the program. They are not passive observers, or simply a polite sideline audience, but active contributors in the daily operation of the program. This is a chance for our parents to insure that 100% of their efforts and support goes directly to their child’s band program.

Our first scheduled meeting of the St. Michael Band Parents Organization will be Wednesday, July 30 at 6:30 pm at Dr. Andry’s home. We are having this in conjunction with a pool party for our band students. We plan to vote on officers, set up various committees, discuss “Band Night,” game day protocol, meals after home games, and discuss our band fundraiser, “Moonlight and Jazz.” The ongoing success of our program is in direct proportion to the support of our parents. We need you. We do insist on 100% participation in the band booster organization by all our band parents, even if you cannot make it to the first meeting.

You may think there are not enough hours in the day to add one more responsibility to your schedule. This is a legitimate consideration; however, we are sensitive to the situation. You will find everyone is willing to make the necessary accommodations so all parents can become involved. Your active participation and your presence at your child’s performances are a gift and an investment in your child’s future.

You will also enjoy the optimistic atmosphere of our band’s number-one fan club – our band parents. You will quickly sense the caring and sharing attitude that will become the trademark of this group. We will have very few meetings throughout the year, thus we urge you to attend our meeting, become an active member of the various committees, and join the ranks of our wonderful “band of parents” who ensure our students are at the front of life’s parade!

Angie Simoneaux, Band Boosters President

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**Upcoming Events. Please mark your calendars!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>July 21-25</td>
<td>Drumline Camp (9 am- 2 pm) All percussionists</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 28-Aug.1</td>
<td>Band Camp (8 am-4 pm) all band students</td>
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<td>September 5</td>
<td>Riverdale (Home-Memorial)</td>
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<td>September 12</td>
<td>Parkview (Home at Parkview)</td>
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<td>September 18</td>
<td>Baker (Home at Olympia) Thursday game</td>
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<td>September 26</td>
<td>Live Oak (Away at Live Oak)</td>
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<td>September</td>
<td>Homecoming Tea (Combo only) Sunday (2-4 pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 3</td>
<td>Brusly (Olympia) Band Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 9</td>
<td>Homecoming parade and pep rally</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 10</td>
<td>Tara (Homecoming at Olympia)</td>
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<td>October 17</td>
<td>McKinley (Away at McKinley)</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 18</td>
<td>Duchtown Marching Festival</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 23</td>
<td>Belaire (Away at Belaire) Thursday game</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 30</td>
<td>Open House (Jazz Band &amp; Drumline only)</td>
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<td>October 31</td>
<td>Broadmoor (Away at Broadmoor)</td>
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<td>November 7</td>
<td>Lee High (Home at Lee) Senior Night</td>
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<td>November 14</td>
<td>First playoff game TBA</td>
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<td>December</td>
<td>Jones Creek Christmas Parade TBA</td>
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<td>December</td>
<td>Christmas Band Concert TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>Christmas concert during school TBA</td>
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<td>March 14</td>
<td>St. Patrick’s Day Parade</td>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>Spring Concert  TBA</td>
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**Child Protection Classes Online!**

The Diocese of Baton Rouge requires all school volunteers to complete a child protection course. Because our band parents are actively involved in our program, we ask that all band parents complete the course. If you have already completed a child protection course through the diocese, then you don’t need to retake it. This course has become easier to complete, thanks to technology! You can complete an online course entitled “Safe in Place.” Simply register at this web site: [http://safeandsacred-diobr.org/](http://safeandsacred-diobr.org/). Once you register, you will be prompted to watch three videos online and answer a five-question quiz at the end. When you’re finished, print out a certificate of completion and return it to Dr. Andry.

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