

September 11, 2007

Dear Parents and Students,

Please visit the www.wshsb.com Member's News page where you will find links to –

- The **2007-2008 Concert Season Calendar**. Mark important dates on your calendar now. Please notice that there is no practice on October 4 and we do not yet have a date for a Yorktown Christmas performance.
- The recently updated **2007-2008 Handbook** and the **2007-2008 Handbook Agreement** for a parent and student(s) to sign after you've reviewed the handbook. Every family should return the signed agreement at our first band practice on September 20.
- The **2007-2008 Rosters**
- **Winter Concert Well-Wisher** form

The documents are also available on the Forms/Documents page.

Review the entire handbook carefully as there are a number of changes, additions and clarifications to what has existed in the past. In an effort to keep the weekly Rehearsal Notes from being so lengthy, we refer to the handbook frequently for details which will not be duplicated in the notes.

The Music Resource page will be updated as soon as possible.

We will try to have weekly Rehearsal Notes posted within a couple days after practice, but by Monday at the latest. In addition to posting the weekly Rehearsal Notes on the web, we will be emailing them to all band families. Note to new parents – Weekly practice assignments are found in the Music Notes portion of the weekly Rehearsal notes,

Since band members received music at the parents' meeting they should already be practicing and turn in a Practice Report (found on Forms/Documents) at the first band practice.

Cadets should be experimenting with their instruments, in terms of trying to produce sound and practicing long tones, for about 10 minutes a day. Continue watching the Ultimate Beginner Series daily. In Essential Elements, continue reviewing pages 2 and 3 at home in preparation for pages 4 and 5 which will be worked on in class. Also become familiar with the Smart Music DVD that comes with Essential Elements. Following is information about the Ultimate Beginner Series.

- **VIDEO - THE ULTIMATE BEGINNER SERIES**
(instrument specific, may not be available for every instrument) VHS format - *Vol. 1 & 2*, some titles are available in DVD format with Vol. 1 & 2 combined. *Note: Check your local library. For example, Wheaton carries some of the titles with a one week loan period.* **It is required that all wind beginners purchase or borrow at least Volume 1 of this video.** They need to become familiar with the basics for assembling, cleaning and producing sound with their instrument by watching and practicing with the tape multiple times.

"Coaches" are needed for Cadets – The director would welcome those willing to act as "coaches" in Cadet Band. You should have your instrument with you, but you will not be there to play. Rather, you are needed to assist our newest members, overseeing that they are using and playing their instrument properly, demonstrating on your own instrument when necessary. Please send Mrs. Borow an email if you would be willing to help in this way.

Return laundered marching hats on September 20. Be sure your name is checked off.

Only marching music should be returned on September 20. Bring your music to a mom at the front table for check-in. No Music Return Form is necessary. We are not yet ready to accept any other music at this time. Watch the weekly rehearsal notes for an announcement of when we will begin accepting concert music returns. **Don't forget – T-shirt order deadline is September 20.**

Returning band families will notice a change in Cornelius Hall. The stage has been removed along with some redecoration of the space. They have a large number of new blue, non-folding chairs. However, we are asking that no one use the new chairs. Rather, use only the folding chairs as we have in the past.

FYI, There is a current ad for Naperville Music, with a 4-month introductory rate on rental instruments. They are located at 636 E. Ogden Ave. in Naperville, phone 355-1404, www.napervillemusic.com.

Following is a summary of Handbook highlights, changes and additions –

- Remember, any band email should have ***BAND*** in capitals, as the first word of the Subject, making it easier to recognize in a very full inbox, page 3.
- Carefully check the supply list, page 4. Changes have been made. Also, Winning Rhythms has been eliminated from the list for all bands.
- Students should wear name tags for the first few weeks as described on page 5.
- REPORTING ABSENCES AND DATE CONFLICTS Phone calls with a follow-up email for absences, the earlier the better. Important, new instructions about reporting practice and performance date conflicts. Page 6.
- A few new items under AT BAND PRACTICE, pages 6/7.
- Check WEEKLY BAND PRACTICE TIMES, page 6. Cadet band start time has changed from 5:30 to 5:15. We **need more people** to be involved in setting-up the hall and resetting it after practice with specific needs also defined on page 6.
- There are a couple new items under Regarding WSHSB Sheet Music on page 8. We have also changed the return process, eliminating the Music Return Form.
- Parents and students should review the Concert Season Dress Codes beginning on page 8. Talk especially about the OVERVIEW and DRESS CODE FOR PRACTICES so no one is put in the awkward position of dealing with, or being told their appearance or dress is inappropriate at band practice or other public appearance. A couple new items have been added near the end of the Concert Dress code, pages 9/10, and also apply to the Marching Dress Code.
 - No unnatural shade of hair color.
 - Remain in your concert dress, until you leave the event. Shirts are to stay on and tucked-in. Bow ties and cummerbunds should also be left on unless they are being collected immediately after the performance.
- Review Jacket and Pants Fitting item on pages 10/11. The date is Tuesday, October 23. Please contact Helen Herbst if you need to exchange or pick up a jacket or pants so she knows how many people to plan for and how many volunteers to recruit for assistance. She can also give directions to the fitting at the Borow's.
- There is a new item about band families helping to recruit, pages 13/14

We look forward to seeing you at our first practice, September 20!