



Spring 2011 Edition

# Band Notes

Newsletter of the Herndon Middle School Band Parents Association

## Mark Your Calendar:

- April 28 – Pyramid Concert, 7pm, Herndon High Auditorium, Symphonic Band Only
- May 6 – Spring Competition, Hershey Park, Concert & Symphonic Bands
- May 10 – Spring Band Concert, HMS Auditorium, All Bands
- June 1 – Band Celebration & Awards Night, HMS Auditorium/ Cafeteria, All band students and their families are invited.
- October 22 – Herndon Homecoming Parade

Don't miss any important information – join the HMS Band Yahoo Groups to receive up-to-date news and reminders! Visit the HMS Band web site, and click "E-mail Lists" for instructions.

## A Note from the Director...

I am looking forward to our Spring Concert on Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. You will be amazed at the improvement of all of our band students. Their hard work is really paying off. Get ready to be "wowed" by pieces such as: "Night Drop", "Rocky Mountain Romp", "Suncoast Carnival", and "Island Paradise". Please be sure to keep Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup> open for our Band Celebration and Awards Night. Our Jazz Band will provide the entertainment, and all of the awards, including the Solo & Ensemble medals, Master Musicianship Award, Outstanding Musicianship Award, and the Eric Hirt Spirit of Herndon Award will be given out that evening.

*Ms. Bonneau*

## Summer Camps & Private Lessons

Band camp is a great opportunity for students to have fun playing their instrument during the summer. There are many wonderful summer band camps in our area that are reasonably priced and are run by local professional educators. Franklin Band Camp will be held at Franklin MS, which is very close by! Vienna Band Camp is held at McLean High School. Registration forms for these camps are posted at our website: [www.herndonband.org/hms](http://www.herndonband.org/hms).

Many professional musicians have openings in their private lesson studios NOW! Summer is a great time to begin private lessons, because students have extra time to focus on their instrument. Private teacher lists are found at our website: [www.herndonband.org/hms](http://www.herndonband.org/hms).

## State Assessment Results

Congratulations to our Concert and Symphonic Bands on their fine performance at the State Band Assessment on March 5<sup>th</sup>. The event was held at Kenmore Middle School in Arlington, and our bands were adjudicated by three judges for their stage performance and one judge for their sight-reading performance. Both of our bands earned a SUPERIOR rating! We commend them on their hard work and dedication and thank them for representing Herndon Middle School admirably. They celebrated their success with a Power Time cake party.



## Remember to Visit our Website!

The Spirit of Herndon band website provides a wealth of information.

You'll find the band calendar, blank assessment charts, reminders and up-to-the-minute news

and information. It also includes many fabulous pictures from all of the events!

Check out the website at [www.herndonband.org/hms](http://www.herndonband.org/hms)



## HERSHEY PARK REMINDERS

On May 6th, the Concert and Symphonic Bands will perform at the "Music In the Parks" music festival in Hershey, PA. After the students complete their performances, they will go to Hershey Park to enjoy several hours of fun. It is important that the Concert and Symphonic Band members arrive at Herndon Middle in FULL CONCERT UNIFORM at 5:30 a.m. on May 6<sup>th</sup>. A complete schedule of the day was sent home via flyer, email, and is also posted on our website at [www.herndonband.org/hms](http://www.herndonband.org/hms)

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### DROP-OFF – May 6, 5:30am

Please plan to drop off your child no later than **5:30am on FRIDAY, May 6**. Please park in the faculty lot or behind the school and walk your child to the bus.

Students should **arrive dressed in their concert attire**. Get your instrument from the band room and report directly to bus #1, 2 or 3 (located right outside the band room entrance 3) where a chaperone will check you in. Do not board a bus if there is no chaperone.

Students are permitted to bring iPods/CD/DVD players as long as they bring headphones! Students are responsible for everything they bring on the trip!!

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### PICK-UP – May 6, 10:00pm

The buses will depart Hershey Park at approximately 7:30pm. We will arrive at Herndon Middle School by 10:00pm. Students may use their cell phones while on the bus to phone ahead and give you a better estimate of the arrival time. **PLEASE DO NOT PARK FOR PICKUP BY THE BAND ENTRANCE 3 OR IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL** – the buses will need to park here for unloading.

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### DON'T FORGET...

Remember to bring your music dept. t-shirt, shorts, tennis shoes, cell phone, sunscreen, money for lunch and dinner at park, snacks/food, and DVDs (G and PG only) for the bus ride. Also remember that wet clothes from possible water rides and a cold bus make for a miserable ride home. Consider bringing an extra change of clothes for the ride home (you may change in the bus restroom).



## ♪ Dress for Success at Performances ♪

A busy spring performance season is upon us. Do you know where your student's uniform is since they last wore it?

**Now is the time to get the performance uniform ready to go!** Below is list of what the students are expected to wear. This information is taken directly from the Band Department Handbook that all students received on the first day of school and that is posted at our website.

### Training Band and Percussion Ensemble

Members are to wear:

♫ **Boys:** black dress shoes, black socks, black dress pants, white long-sleeved ironed shirt with a collar, and straight plain black tie

♫ **Girls:** black dress shoes, black socks or hose, black dress pants, white long-sleeved ironed shirt (please avoid off-whites, creams and beiges)

### Symphonic and Concert Band

Members were given a tux shirt, 4 black studs, bow tie, and cummerbund to use for the year. They are to wear:

♫ **Boys:** black dress shoes, black socks, black dress pants, ironed white tux shirt & **plain** white t-shirt / 4 black studs / bow tie / cummerbund

♫ **Girls:** black dress shoes, black hose, long black skirt, ironed white tux shirt & **plain** white camisole / 4 black studs / bow tie / cummerbund

PLEASE CONTACT MS. BONNEAU **IMMEDIATELY** IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE FINDING OR BUYING ANY OF THESE ITEMS.



## 2011-12 Board Members Needed!

Would you like to become more involved with the band program next year? It's your lucky day! We have openings on our band board, so please consider this opportunity. Feel free to contact the current board members in the position you are interested in – contact information is listed on the right.

### 2010-11 Band Board

#### Director

Sharon Bonneau  
hmsbanddirector@herndonband.org

#### President

Susan Horting  
hmsbandpres@herndonband.org

#### Vice President

Suzy Orr  
hmsbandvp@herndonband.org

#### Treasurer

Jennifer Maccannon  
Jennifer Loudenslager  
hmsbandtreas@herndonband.org

#### Volunteer Coordinator

Kim Jones  
Kristen Jasmann  
hmsbandvol@herndonband.org

#### Parade

Susie Cumbie  
Kim Kelly  
hmsbandparade@herndonband.org

#### Uniforms

Lori O'Day  
Michele Hitti  
hmsbanduniform@herndonband.org

#### Newsletter

Christa Soltis  
hmsbandnews@herndonband.org

#### Hospitality

Karen McDonald  
Amy Millar  
hmsbandhosp@herndonband.org

#### Fundraising

Monique Berkeley  
Mary Schifferli  
hmsbandfund@herndonband.org

#### Photographer

Craig DuBois & Mark Toner  
hmsbandhist@herndonband.org

#### PTA Liaison

Suzanne Cleveland  
*Vacant – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Needed*  
hmsbandpta@herndonband.org

#### Webmaster

Susan Horting & Red Fehrle  
hmsbandweb@herndonband.org



## VOLUNTEERS

We would like to thank everyone who has volunteered to help with band events throughout the year. You have helped make all the events flow smoothly and allowed Ms. Bonneau to focus on the wonderful performances. We still have a few more events to staff before the end of the year. If you haven't volunteered so far this year, now is your chance!

Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> –  
Spring Band Concert

Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup> –  
Band Celebration

If interested, please contact Kim Jones at [kimjones93@verizon.net](mailto:kimjones93@verizon.net) or Kristin Jasmann at [jasmann4@verizon.net](mailto:jasmann4@verizon.net), we will send you details closer to the date.



## Solo & Ensemble Festival

HMS was well represented on April 2nd at the Solo & Ensemble Festival this year at Kilmer Middle School. Our students had the opportunity to perform a solo or work together in small ensembles in front of judges. They received positive comments and performance tips from a professional musician who plays the same instrument as they do. Twenty-one students earned "Superior" ratings and seven band members earned "Excellent" ratings. We are very proud of all of our participants. They represented us with excellence and pride!

## FUNDRAISING NEWS

The Spring Concert, scheduled for Tuesday May 10, is approaching quickly. Once again, **we are asking band parents to contribute prizes for the raffle** that we will be held at the concert. We are looking for things like gift cards, movie tickets from local theaters, or any other items that parents and families would be excited about winning in a raffle! Please contact one of the Fundraising Co-Chairs to ask about making a donation (Monique Berkeley, [moniqueberkeley@yahoo.com](mailto:moniqueberkeley@yahoo.com), or Mary Schifferli, [mschifferli@aol.com](mailto:mschifferli@aol.com).)

Also, we will need volunteers at the concert to help sell tickets. Please e-mail if you can help! If you haven't been able to spend much time helping out our wonderful bands this year, here is one last chance to contribute by donating a raffle prize or selling raffle tickets. We thank you in advance for your support of the HMS Bands!

## LOOKING AHEAD TO 2011-12 FUNDRAISING

The Fundraising Co-Chairs have already begun planning the 2011-12 fundraising events. The Band Board is considering several new ideas for fundraising, as well as a reprise of the popular Barnes and Noble (Reston, VA) Book Fair, to be held on a Saturday in early December. More news on these fundraisers in the June 2011 Newsletter; stay tuned!

## Hospitality Update

Mark your calendar, HMS Band Awards Ceremony and Celebration, June 1st, will need food and beverage donations and several volunteers. Watch for a flyer and email requests as we get closer to the event. For information, contact Karen McDonald, Hospitality Co-chair, at [gfrazer@verizon.net](mailto:gfrazer@verizon.net).

## FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT...

What an exciting couple of months we have had with many band events! The highlight came in early March, when our Concert and Symphonic bands performed at the State Assessment, and **BOTH** bands received **SUPERIOR** marks! This is truly a tribute to the hard work of our students and our wonderful band director, Ms. Bonneau.

Band provides many opportunities to grow and develop, and our children are learning lessons that they will be able to apply throughout their lives. Please take a moment to read about some of the ways band helps develop skills for life, on page 6. Thank you for supporting your child's education through music!

## A Few Memories from State Assessment...



## Physical Education Bill Vetoed

Back in February, your help was requested to write the Governor asking him to veto the bill to increase the amount of PE required to 150 minutes per week. This bill had the potential to greatly impact and reduce the time available for arts education at the elementary level and the number of electives at the Middle School and High School levels. Thanks to the diligent work and support of parents like you and the Fairfax County School Board, the Governor vetoed the bill on March 24<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks to those of you that took the time to write and express your concerns!



## DID YOU KNOW...

The band web site is FULL of beautiful behind-the-scenes pictures from our events this year!

And...you can print your own copies of those pictures through Shutterfly or download them to your computer or digital frame!! ☺

Check it out at [www.herndonband.org/hms](http://www.herndonband.org/hms) and click on the "Photos" link on the left side.

To print, just click an individual photo and then click the "Print on Shutterfly" option on the left. To download an image, click the image to enlarge it, and then right-click for the download option.

*A very special thanks to Craig DuBois and Mark Toner for capturing the year for us to enjoy!*

### ***Band Teaches Skills for Life***

**Courage.** It takes courage to get up on stage and perform, to audition in front of teachers and judges, and to play in front of peers.

**Competition.** Musicians compete against each other to become better and earn higher chairs. The band competes against other school bands for trophies and recognition. Competition gives students the opportunity to take a risk, compare themselves to others, and challenge themselves to improve.

**Composure.** Musicians must remain composed and flexible during performances, making adjustments to unexpected events without letting the audience know. They must also demonstrate composure in front of their peers and judges during auditions.

**Expression.** Music expresses human emotions. Musicians must learn to interpret music, such as the effects of fast vs. slow and loud vs. soft. As musicians grow, they learn to feel the music and what the composer was trying to express. When expression and interpretation reach the audience, the band has succeeded.

**Friendship.** Band provides an opportunity for members to get to know each other and to meet people that they might not otherwise meet. Band crosses typical school boundaries such as grade, academic achievement level, previous school, and social group. It is truly a blend of students from across the school population.

**Fun.** Musicians work hard, but there is always time for fun – on trips, celebrating after a performance, at award ceremonies, and during events.

**Insight.** Most music expresses something about the time in which it is written. A look at the history of a piece can help musicians understand life events and gain insight into human history.

**Leadership.** The band has a hierarchy. The director is the leader, supported by section leaders and each member of the band. Each musician must learn to be a follower but also to lead and encourage those around them.

**Perseverance.** Practice is vital for musicians. Through practice and perseverance a musician becomes better at playing their instrument, better at reading music, better at playing their part, and better at being part of the band.

**Responsibility.** Each musician must remember their music, all parts of their instrument, and their rehearsal and performance schedule. They have made a commitment, and every member of the band is depending on them.

**Teamwork.** Each musician is an essential part of the band. Together, they succeed.