



WINTER 2011 Edition

Band Notes

Newsletter of the Herndon Middle School Band Parents Association

Mark Your Calendar:

- February 23 – Pre-Assessment Concert, 7pm, HMS Auditorium, Concert & Symphonic Bands (*Snow Date 2/24*)
- March 5 – District XII Band Assessment, Kenmore MS, Concert & Symphonic Bands

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...

Our most important performance of the year, the **District XII State Band Assessment**, will take place at Kenmore Middle School (Arlington) on **Saturday, March 5th**. Both Concert Band and Symphonic Band will perform on this date. The bands will each play three prepared pieces for a panel of judges (parents and friends are encouraged to cheer us on at this part of the performance). Then they will go to another room where they will sight-read a selection for a different judge (non-band members are not allowed to hear this). The bands will be given ratings and comments on their performance. **This is a state performance-based assessment test much like the SOL tests.**

Performance times are 9:20 a.m. for the Concert Band and 11:10 a.m. for the Symphonic Band. Students will depart Herndon Middle School at approximately 6:45 a.m. and be bussed to Kenmore Middle School. We will return to HMS via bus and should be back by approximately 1:30 p.m. **A complete & detailed itinerary will be sent home via email and flyer once everything is finalized. There will also be a required field trip permission form and emergency care form.**

Our Pre-Assessment Concert (a "practice run"), in full concert uniform, will take place at Herndon Middle School on Wednesday, February 23rd. Report time will be 6:15 p.m. for a 7:00 p.m. concert. The snow date for this is on 2/24 – just in case!

Ms. Bonneau

A Special Thank You

Our heartfelt thanks to Mr. Arthur Nachman, who once again gave a substantial donation to our band program. Mr. Nachman has been a Herndon resident since he was a child and believes that band is a very worthwhile and important endeavor. Thank you, Mr. Nachman!

We were also fortunate to be the recipient of a \$1,000 Herndon Rotary gift, as well! The Rotary has been extremely supportive of our musical endeavors for many years. With the help of these donations, we will be able to purchase a new set of concert bells. All donations to Herndon Middle School for the band are tax deductible!



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. Be sure to look at the pictures to see our students in action!

Pictures from Homecoming have recently been added.

Check out the website at www.herndonband.org/hms



FUNDRAISING NEWS

Book Fair is a Runaway Success!!!

THANK YOU to all parents and students who volunteered, shopped, and/or performed during our 3rd Annual Barnes and Noble Book Fair, held on Dec. 3 and 4, 2010 in Reston. On Friday, Dec. 3, Ms. Bonneau and some of our talented students treated shoppers to live music. Saturday Dec. 4 was a very busy shopping day, and lots of shoppers used the HMS Band Book Fair vouchers handed out by volunteers. As a result, this event was more successful than in any previous year. We were able to raise **\$1488** for the Spirit of Herndon Band! Please remember to shop at the HMS Band Book Fair next holiday season.

Recycle Your Inkjet Cartridges

The HMS Band is recycling ink cartridges and cell phones. Each item earns money that can be used for instruments, music, and specialized instruction. Just send them in with your child and we'll take care of the rest. Thanks for contributing to our outstanding band program!

Company Match Program

Did you know that tax-deductible contributions may be made to Herndon Middle School and marked for the band program? In addition, if your company has a matching grant program, the band program may be eligible to receive a matching grant from your contribution. All donations are used to improve and expand the band program for our students, through purchasing music and instruments, paying for guest clinicians, and offering additional programs such as the marching band and jazz band. If you or your company is interested in making a donation to the band, please contact Ms. Bonneau. Thank you for your support!

Winter and Spring Concert Raffle News

Thanks to all who contributed prizes or bought tickets to the Raffle held at the Winter Concert, as well as those parents who volunteered to sell the raffle tickets! The money earned from the raffle helps support the many costs of running a vibrant band program and provides our students with opportunities that would not otherwise be possible.

The HMS BPA will be having another raffle at the Spring Concert, scheduled for May 10, 2011. The Fundraising Co-Chairs will be contacting all parents closer to the time of the Spring Concert to solicit donations, so please help us by thinking of items to contribute or by volunteering to sell the raffle tickets before the May concert.



♪ Dress for Success at Performances ♪

A busy spring performance season is approaching, with the first performance scheduled for February 23, the Pre-Assessment Concert for Symphonic and Concert band members. Do you know where your student's uniform is since they last wore it at the winter concert?!

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.

A Reminder for Parents...

Ms. Bonneau will always send home a flyer with students approximately 2 weeks prior to a performance. If you don't see a notice, be sure to ask your child about it, or contact Ms. Bonneau via email:

SJBonneau@fcps.edu. She will also send YAHOO "blasts" to keep you informed. Please forward her your updated email address as needed. The Band Department Handbook also has a calendar of band events and all flyers and information will be posted at our website www.herndonband.org/hms. Please check this site frequently.

2010-11 Band Board

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VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered this year.

We have many events coming up this spring – please consider volunteering!

Please contact Kim Jones at kmjones93@verizon.net or Kristin Jasmann at Jasmann4@verizon.net if you can help.

Thanks for supporting our band program!



Hospitality Thank You

Thank you to the wonderful HMS Band community for the goodies and assistance at our Winter Concert. It was a great ending to a spectacular evening.

Karen McDonald and Amy Millar, Hospitality Co-Chairs

Bravo HMS Band Students!

Three H.M.S. students were selected to participate in the Fourteenth Annual **Virginia Tech Honor Band**. Out of more than 1,200 nominees, 500 were chosen to perform with five bands. The nominated students represent over 160 schools from five states. In addition to the bands and rehearsals, the event included a Friday night performance by the Virginia Tech Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, and the Marching Virginians, as well as clinics by the Virginia Tech music faculty. The event took place on January 21-23. Representing HMS were: **Christine Horting** (trumpet), **Michelle Huchette** (oboe), and **Ronan O'Day** (tuba).

The **District XII All-District Band** is a “cream of the crop” band comprised of the best middle school instrumentalists in our district. Auditioning students play major scales, the chromatic scale and sight-reading for a panel of judges, who score them according to their performance. The top scorers earn a seat in the band. We are proud of the 27 students who represented us in this competition. Congratulations to **Robert DuBois** (tenor sax), **Christine Horting** (trumpet), and **Ronan O'Day** (tuba) for earning a seat in this spectacular ensemble. **Michelle Huchette** was chosen as an alternate on oboe. The event was held at Chantilly High School on February 3-5th.

A Letter from the HMS Band Board President

I'd like to share with you a poem that I recently came across entitled “Why We Teach Music.” This wonderful poem talks about the different elements contained in music such as Science, Math, Language, History, and Physical Education. It then goes on to talk about the non-scientific characteristics that are learned through music – things like understanding and emotions -- subjects that are difficult or impossible to teach but are vital to understanding humanity. I would encourage you to take a minute to read this poem, which is printed on the last page of this newsletter.

Band and music have had a huge impact on my children and have provided them with so many opportunities. They have learned life-skills, made good friends, and have become well-rounded individuals. Band will always be a part of who they are and who they will become.

As your children begin to select their courses for next year, please remind them to put down Band as an elective. If you have friends and neighbors with rising 7th graders, please tell them about the HMS band program and encourage them to choose band as an elective. A strong band programs benefits all our students and the community.

Why We Teach Music

Author unknown

Music is a science.

It is exact, specific; and it demands exact acoustics.

A conductor's full score is a chart, a graph which indicates frequencies, intensities, volume changes, melody and harmony all at once and with the most exact control of time.

Music is mathematical.

It is rhythmically based on the subdivisions of time into fractions which must be done instantaneously, not worked out on paper.

Music is a foreign language.

Most of the terms are in Italian, German or French; and the notation is certainly not English but a highly developed kind of shorthand that uses symbols to represent ideas.

The semantics of music is the most complete and universal language.

Music is history.

Music usually reflects the environment and times of its creation, often even the country and/ or racial feeling.

Music is physical education.

It requires fantastic coordination of fingers, hands, arms, lip, cheek and facial muscles, in addition to extraordinary control of diaphragmatic, back, stomach, and chest muscles, which respond instantly to the sound the ear hears and the mind interprets.

Music is all these things, but most of all, music is art.

It allows a human being to take all of these dry, technically boring (but difficult) techniques and use them to create emotion.

That is one thing science cannot duplicate; humanism, feeling, emotion, call it what you will.

That is why we teach music.

Not because we expect our students to major in music

Not because we expect them to play or sing all their life

Not so they can relax

Not so they can have fun.

But so they will be human

So they will recognize beauty

So they will be sensitive

So they will be closer to an infinite beyond this world

So they will have something to cling to

So they will have more love, more compassion, more gentleness, more good

-- in short, more life.

Of what value will it be to make a prosperous living unless you know how to live?

That is why we teach music.