

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE: #1 (Aug. 6, 2010)

WOW!!! It has truly been an amazing week with these students, staff, and involved parents. As of today (Friday, as I'm typing this Update), the students have 20+ sets of drill on the field. They have been through workouts that I now call "Charlie's P-90 B.O.K. Workout." The guard and percussion have worked on routine and music and are doing great. And our woodwinds and brass are sounding great after their sectionals. I could not be more proud of our kids.

Next week is BIG week for Band Camp. Our schedule is as follows:

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

9:00am – 12:00noon: Drill and Movement outside

Noon – 1:00pm Lunch (bring a bag lunch/ students not permitted to leave school)

1:00pm – 3:00pm: Music and Guard Sectionals (inside and around the school)

3:00pm – 4:00pm: Outside for putting music with drill (if temperatures permit)

4:00pm – 6:00pm: Dinner Break (students may leave school or bring bag meal)

6:00pm – 8:30pm: Putting it together (outside rehearsal)

Wednesday

9:00am – 12:00noon: Drill and Movement outside

Noon – 1:00pm: Lunch (bring bag lunch / students not permitted to leave school)

1:00pm – 3:30pm: Music and Guard Sectionals (inside and around school)

3:30pm – 5:00pm: Outside for putting music with drill (if temperatures permit) Evening Free

Friday

9:00am – 12:00noon: Drill and Movement outside

Noon – 1:00pm Lunch (**PIZZA LUNCH** provided by NLBB / bring your own drink)

1:00pm – 2:30pm: Music and Guard Sectionals (inside and around school)

3:00 pm: **OUTSIDE AND PREVIEW REHEARSAL/PERFORMANCE FOR PARENTS** (practice field)

BAND BOOSTER MEETING ON THURSDAY EVENING (Aug. 12th): At 6:00 (when you drop your son/daughter off) come on in to the Chorus Room. Band Booster Ex. Board members will be there to greet and meet you. At 6:30 the meeting will begin. Information and sign-ups for different events, fundraisers, chaperoning, props, and other ways to support will be topics. **COME BE INVOLVED IN THIS WONDERFUL ORGANIZATION and SUPPORT YOUR KID AND THE BEST GROUP OF KIDS ANYWHERE!!!!!!** The meeting will last till about 7:30-8:00. Then come out to the practice field and watch the band finish practice.

A big "**THANK YOU**" goes to Jerry Renner for organizing, and to all the folks who donated snacks for the students and lunches for the staff. The cooperation has been incredible. There are a few items we still need for the future. We want to give the students a treat at the end of each hot afternoon. We would like donations of "Icy Pops". Also we need more granola bars, cereal bars and fruit (especially green grapes and apples) for their mid-morning snack. For future events, if you find name-brand canned soda on sale, we need twelve-packs and cases of these to prepare for ball games and the Roundtable Tournament. Any of these items can be dropped off at the band room when bringing students or at the meeting next week.

On Saturday, August 14 we will be having our annual **Yard Sale/Car Wash** fundraiser at Lake Norman Lutheran Church on Hwy. 16 between Denver and Triangle. In order for the yard sale to be a success we need items to sell and that is where you, the parents come in. We will be collecting items all week during band camp. Please see what you might have to offer and bring it to the school during the week. Items should be dropped off at the band trailer each day. They will be moved into the trailer each afternoon. Any donations are appreciated. You may want to ask your neighbors if they have any items as well. You will be given more information next Thursday evening at the first Boosters Meeting about how you can help out during the day of the sale. Thanks in advance for your donations and we look forward to seeing you next Thursday evening. **NOTE:** Band students will be asked to wash cars or help with the Yard Sale on Saturday.

BAND FEES: I spoke to another band director just last week. Their band isn't nearly as involved (or good) as ours and he was amazed that we charge so little for participation in our marching band. This is because we have such a wonderful support organization, willing to raise the needed funds so folks don't have to pay so much out-of-pocket. **HOWEVER**, we do have to charge band fees to make sure expenses are met (extra staff salaries, activity bus, uniform needs, instrument purchases and upkeep, drill, music arrangements, and more). **PLEASE** make sure you are up-to-date with your fee payments. At this point three payments should have been made (June, July and August - \$75.00 each). As you know financial assistance is available and the boosters are **VERY** flexible with payment plans. All we ask is for you to be up-front and let us know. Send payments and/or notes to the **BLUE BOX** in my office.

Again, I am SO impressed and happy with the start of this season and year. These are truly **OUTSTANDING** young people and they come from equally outstanding parents. I hope you share in my excitement to see what we can accomplish together. Parents support your young people. They are amazing!!!

Musically Yours, N. Underwood