



From the Podium

March 2010

Congratulations – MPA Results!

The RMS 7th and 8th Grade Concert Band and the SHS Symphonic Band both received superior ratings the Alabama Bandmasters Association District II Music Performance Assessment at Gadsden City High School. Each student will receive a medal and each band will receive a trophy to keep at each school! Great work!

Thank you!

Representative Blaine Galliher has recently secured money to help the RMS and SHS Band Programs to incorporate technology into our daily rehearsals. Representative Galliher will be with us at the Band Spring Concert on Sunday, May 16, 2010. Please make sure to thank Representative Galliher in person or thank him through a phone call or letter using the information below:

Post Office Box 4353
Gadsden, AL 35904-4353

(256) 832-1201

Also, thank you to all the parents who helped at the Pre-MPA Performance and Chili Dinner. The event was nice success! Leftover food was donated to a local ministry and was put to a good cause!

6th Grade Beginning Band

We are moving right along with the 6th grade beginners! We have just pasted #100 in our books and have set a goal for ourselves to learn 10 new examples a week.

Weekly playing quizzes and written tests on “Yellow Box” items will begin this week. Students should have a pencil and paper at each class period.

Students need to continue to fill out practice records weekly and parents should encourage students to continue daily practice!

7th and 8th Grade Intermediate Band

Now that MPA is complete we will shift gears and start to focus more on individual technique and skills. Scale pass-offs and Rubank Recording Assignments will begin the weeks following spring break (specific information will be sent home with students this week). Students are highly encouraged to participate in solo and ensemble (information below).

Students need to continue to fill out practice records weekly and parents should encourage students to continue daily practice! If we as a band want to really reach our full potential the instruments have to go home more often and students have to work outside of class.

SHS Symphonic Band

Much like RMS 7th and 8th Grade, much attention will now be given to individual technique and skills. We will be reading a lot of music (new and old) the remainder of the semester. We will also prepare recruitment concerts for the elementary schools, in addition to preparing the spring concert. I also highly encourage students to participate in solo and ensemble (information below).

I cannot express how important it is for students to do some individual practice at least 2 or 3 times a week outside of class. Parents please help in making sure your child does their part!

Mentor Program Changes

Notices were sent home with students regarding changes to the Mentor Program. During the months of March, April, and May the Mentor Program will take place on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Those interested should complete an information sheet and return it to Mr. Haskew by Tuesday, March 2 so that a schedule can be set. Mentor Program will not meet this week (March 1st).

Drumline Rehearsals

Now taking place on Mondays from 3:15-5:00 in the SHS Bandroom.

Jazz Band

Rehearsals will start back on Tuesdays and Thursday this week from 3:15-5:00. Jazz Band will perform at Solo and Ensemble on Saturday, April 3, 2010 and at the Spring Concert and Band Banquet. I am currently working on additional community performances for the Jazz Band this spring semester. Students should pay the \$20 jazz band fee if they have not already done so in the fall. If you have a question about whether or not you paid, please contact Mr. Haskew.

Solo and Ensemble

Solo and Ensemble is open to all students 7th grade and up. Students work to prepare solos, duets, trios, quartets, etc. and perform it for a judge and are given a score. If the student earns a superior rating they receive a medal. This is a great way for students to expand their musical experiences. Mr. Haskew has plenty of music at RMS and SHS and Gadsden Music has an entire section of their store dedicated to music for this event. Mr. Haskew is available Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays to help students wishing to work on Solo and Ensemble material. A student can do up to 4 events (if the student is in jazz band, only three events). Students can only do one solo per instrument. All music performed must be published and appropriate (approximately 1 page in length). All events are \$5 a piece and must be paid to Mr. Haskew before allowed to perform.

*Solo and Ensemble – Saturday, April 3, 2010 at Boaz High School (Transportation Provided)
Deadline to Sign-up is Friday, March 12, 2010*

Danceline / Colorguard / Drum Major Audition Information

Danceline Clinic: March 29-31, Auditions April 1

Colorguard Clinic: April 5-8, Auditions April 9

Mandatory Parent Meeting (for all girls auditioning) – Tuesday, March 23, 6:30 PM

Drum Major Auditions: April 9 – Info Sheets available before Spring Break

The Pride 2010

The 2010 Show Announcement will be made on Monday, March 8 at the Pride Music Association Meeting.

Letters of Intent will be distributed in April so that we can plan accordingly for the upcoming marching season. Official dates for summer rehearsals will be set when the 2010-2011 school calendar is released.

Pride Music Association Meetings

Monday, March 8, 2010 7:00 PM (General Meeting / Trip Meeting / Show Announcement)

Monday, April 19, 2010 7:00 PM (General Meeting / Trip Meeting)

Monday, April 24, 2010 7:00 PM (General Meeting/ The Pride 2010)

Current Fundraisers:

Discount Cards

Flower Power (Turn in Monday, March 8)

NYC Trip Information

Payment reminders were sent home last week. Please wrap up and outstanding payments ASAP. Rooming sign-ups will take place this week during 4th block. Activity updates and rough itineraries will be distributed at the March 8th meeting. All trip attendees are asked to be in attendance. Chaperone groups will also be discussed at this meeting.

In Closing

We have some great things going here in the Band Programs at RMS and SHS. Please do your part to contribute to this (students – practicing, parents – participating)! I thank you for allowing me to be your band director. I truly love my job and each one of my students!

-Haskew