

# VALLEY BAND PARENT 101

## 2009-2010

Welcome to the Valley Bands! The following are some items of information you may find useful.

**Annual Band Parent Information and Ice Cream Social Meeting:** This meeting is usually held the first Saturday after school has started in August and it is held @Valley Southwoods. It is important for ALL Valley Band Parents to attend this kick-off meeting. This kick-off meeting is an opportunity to meet and greet other parents, the Valley Band Boosters and Valley Band Faculty. Band activities such as concert band, jazz band and the Marchmasters will all be highlighted with opportunities for questions and discussions.

**Valley Band Parent WebMail:** Communication is generally done via the ValleyBandParent “WebMail” system that is set up through the Valley Band Website. The Valley Band website webmaster has the ability to add or delete email addresses from the established distribution list. To inquire about having your email address added to this communication tool, please contact; Craig and Sue Reams [carwdm@mchsi.com](mailto:carwdm@mchsi.com) or Jodie Skellenger [jodez@hilbertinc.com](mailto:jodez@hilbertinc.com)

**Donations:** The majority of the band budget comes from the Band Boosters. It is generated by fundraisers and other methods for raising monies for the VB Boosters, which supports the VB programs. Information in regards to the “financial donation” process will be provided to you during the Parent Information Meeting.

**Health Forms:** Notarized health forms are needed for ALL band students (due to various off-campus performances). This form is a school requirement and serves as a signed permission document for treating the student in case of a medical emergency or if medical treatment is required, etc. This provides the directors and chaperones access to appropriate authorization and medical information in the event it is needed. Notaries will be available at the annual Band Parent Information meeting and Ice Cream Social, to be held August 22nd.

**Band Buttons:** Marching band photos are taken during uniform fittings over the summer. Jazz band photos are taken later in the fall. The buttons are available for purchase in sets of two for \$5.00. Additional sets can be ordered. Parents and grandparents traditionally wear these to show support during football games and band contests. Buttons are sold at the August 22 Ice Cream Social and at the Alumni Jazz Concert.

**Band Apparel:** Available through the Band Boosters. T-shirts, sweatshirts, jackets and other items, such as Valley Band yard signs will be available this summer. Forms will be available at the Ice Cream Information Social and also sent out via the WebMail system. ValleyFest T-shirts will be also be available prior to the ValleyFest event and in the concession booths. Order forms will be sent home with students and also via the WebMail.

**ValleyFest XXX (10/10/09)** ValleyFest is an all-day marching competition, drawing bands from all over the state. It is our main fundraiser for the Valley Bands. All students and parents are requested to help by volunteering for the many necessary positions. Valley does not compete, but does perform at the end of the day, usually about 10:30 p.m. to close out the show before the awards ceremony.

**Spring Fling Wing Ding:** Usually held in May of the school year. This is a combination event and it usually encompasses an honors banquet, spring concert and swing dance. Silent auction is also held to benefit the band.

**Additional Fundraisers:** ValleyFest, sale of student directories, fruit and cheese sale, silent auction at Spring Fling Wing Ding, car washes and other venues.

**Travel:** Historically, The Valley Marchmasters have taken a significant trip approximately every three years. The last two trips included the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, 12/04 and the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dublin, Ireland 3/07. The next Marching band trip currently being relooked at.

## MARCHING BAND

**Uniforms:** Uniforms and marching shoes are fitted over the summer. These are kept in the band area in special racks. Uniform dressing before the Marchmaster performances is done at the football stadium by the trailer with minimal privacy. It is recommended that black, thin gym shorts and black, solid t-shirts or tank tops be worn underneath for a discreet lower layer. There is a gap space in the uniform neck area that will reveal a white or light colored t-shirt, if worn. Late fall performances may get very cold. Thin long underwear such as Under Armor or Cuddle Duds and sock liners may be useful. Hand warmers can be purchased at Walgreens, Dahl's, Hy-Vee, etc. Remember to please wear black socks!

**Instruments:** Marching practice, especially amid whirling flags, can lead to dented horns. It's helpful to march with a beginner horn and save the good one for solos and concert band. Woodwinds might consider a weatherproof marching instrument for those rainy practices.

**Marching Band Camp:** Typically held during the first two weeks of August. Bring water, sunscreen, hat, sunglasses, and a snack. Wear old tennis shoes. The celebration for the completion of Band Camp takes place alongside the Parent Information & Ice Cream Social Meeting in August. The band performs part of the show for the parents and other guests.

**"Early Bird" Morning Marchmaster Practices:** Fall mornings can be cold and wet. Some students may wish to bring a change of clothes and wear old tennis shoes. Thin gloves, especially ones with grips, may be helpful. After practice, freshmen students walk up the hill to Valley Southwoods, and 10-12<sup>th</sup> graders drive themselves to school or a school/shuttle bus is available to transport them to Valley High School.

**Home Football Games:** Students meet at the Valley stadium at 5:30 p.m. Some sections choose to have pre-game parties at individual homes prior to the game. Uniform dressing takes place at the band trailer. Once the uniform is on, no food or pop is permitted. Water is allowed and encouraged – especially during warmer performances. Students proceed to warm up. The band plays the national anthem prior to the game and performs their fall show during halftime of the varsity football game. Students are dismissed after the halftime show. Many band parents sit together in the upper bleachers to form a cheering section. (Typically the north-end of the Valley bleachers near the 30-35 yard line zone.) Please come and join us!

**Homecoming Parade:** The band marches in the Homecoming Parade (10/01/09). Students meet at the stadium at 5:00 p.m. and proceed around the block. In the past, dress has been spirit wear.

**Senior Night:** Last home football game (10/22/09). Parents and/or guardians accompany their senior band students out to the field during pre-game or halftime to be acknowledged.

**Contests:** Dates and locations available on band website.

Johnston Marching Invitational at Johnston H. S. (9/19/09)

ValleyFest (10/10/09) - Valley performs but does not compete.

State Marching Contest at Waukee (10/17/09). Traditionally, parents decorate the band lockers at VHS and VSW of marching students on the Thursday evening prior to this event. Small poster board decorated with balloons (no latex), pictures, candy and possibly trinkets are the usual supplies. Band Booster representatives are available during limited times on that evening to keep the VHS and VSW band halls open. Waukee is a great place to get good photos of the kids. Professional photos are taken at this time and may be purchased on-line from Jolesch Photography.

Mid-Iowa Marching Contest at Ankeny (10/17/09) in the evening.

## CONCERT BAND

**Uniforms:** Assigned and fitted in the fall. Students take concert uniforms home and are responsible for showing up for performances appropriately dressed. They are turned in at the end of the year (seniors) with proof of dry cleaning. Remember black socks and shoes for men and hose and black shoes for women. Concert uniforms are stored at home during the school year and, if kept by the 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> grade students over the summer months, need to be dry-cleaned and stored on hangers in the garment bag.

**Concerts:** Please refer to the annual school calendar and webmail information.

**All-State Band:** Auditions are held during the fall in Indianola. Students audition for a spot and provide their own transportation. Timing depends on assigned performance slots, and whether or not call backs are needed. Those who make it into the band will perform at Hilton Coliseum in November.

**Perry Band Olympics - Solo and Ensemble Contest in February.** Participation is required. Students choose a solo with a private lesson teacher (if they have one) and the approval of the band directors. Students must find and pay their own accompanist. The list of possible accompanists, if needed, will be available in the band hall after the winter holidays. Some students will also be asked to perform in ensembles. Students must provide their own transportation to Perry.

Adventureland band contest is NOT held at Adventureland; this is held in Waukee in the spring.

## JAZZ BANDS

Auditions for VHS jazz bands are usually held in the spring and summer. VSW auditions are held after school begins. Performance season is kicked off with Alumni Jazz Concert (11/24/08). Bands attend various contests and clinics. Please consult jazz band itinerary after it is published. Dress usually consists of black dress pants and dress shirt and tie for gentlemen and black skirt or pants and nice top for ladies.

## PEP BAND

After marching season, students can volunteer to be part of the Pep Band and play at VHS basketball games. See director for more information.

### Getting Involved –

Please consult the Valley Bands website for more up-to date information at  
[www.valleybands.org](http://www.valleybands.org).