

BPHS Music Department Summer Newsletter

Our Warmest Welcome to New and Existing Music Members

We want to extend well wishes to all members of the Bethel Park High School Music Department during your summer break. We hope you are finding ample time to relax and keep your minds fresh. Specifically to our new members, we offer a heart-felt welcome to what will certainly be one of the best experiences of your high school career. To all parents, we would like to sincerely thank you for allowing us the opportunity to work with your son or daughter. We truly look forward to making music with everyone during the upcoming school year.

Our goal for this year is to continue building upon the existing tradition of excellence in the arts here in the Bethel Park School District. To accomplish this, we will provide musical challenges that help the students realize their full potential as musicians and people. All of the ensembles will exercise artistic expression by developing music reading skills, ensemble performance skills, individual technical skills and musical understanding. The Bethel Park School District Music Department is one of the most well respected musical organizations in Pennsylvania and throughout the country - we consider it a great honor to continue this legacy and exploit the phenomenal talents of our students.

Included in the summer newsletter is just a sampling of information. Additional and vitally important information will be posted on the High School Music Department website at <http://bpsdmusic.weebly.com> as well as the Department Facebook page at www.facebook.com/bethelparkmusic. Our future success largely depends upon how well we stay informed, please take the time to bookmark the website, like us on Facebook and check both frequently for up to date information. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of the directors via the information listed to the side. We look forward to seeing everyone in August!

Sincerely,

The Directors

BPHS Music Directors:

Chad Thompson, *Band Director*
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Stephanie Glover, *Orchestra Director*
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Todd Kuczawa, *Choir Director*
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Jon Derby, *9th Grade Band, Music Technology and Music Theory*
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Michael Petrossi, *Music Facilitator and Associate Marching Band Director*
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Jeff Knell, *Assistant Marching Band Director*
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Zach Cable, *Assistant Marching Band Director*
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Robin Palyas, *Bethette and Majorette Sponsor*
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THINGS TO DO TODAY:

-Bookmark the music department website, insert all dates from the calendar into your personal calendar, subscribe to text alerts found on the main page:

<http://bpsdmusic.weebly.com>

-Medical Forms (posted on website) for Marching Band members: fill out and return to Mr. Thompson's office

DUE by August 7th

-**ALL PARENTS!** Please take a moment to complete the Music Boosters Database Information: **<http://bpsdmusic.weebly.com/music-boosters.html>**

-All Marching Band members must complete the **Bethel Park School District Activity Fee Form** and pay the activity fee prior to band camp. The form may be found on the school district website or the activities office at the high school.

A WELCOME FROM OUR BOOSTER PRESIDENT

Dear Music Department Families,

Happy Summer! On behalf of the Music Boosters, welcome!

Now is the time to get informed and get involved. The Music Department website www.bpsdmusic.weebly.com is **THE SOURCE** for Music Department and Boosters information. I cannot stress strongly enough how important it is to get to know this website. Navigation is easy! Scroll down on each page to access information. Click or hover over tabs (Home, About, Faculty, Calendar, Music Boosters, More) to access dropdown lists. On the website, you will find the link to the **Music Boosters Database Information**. It is imperative that parents submit this form as it is the **only way** we can contact you! The Boosters do not have access to the Music Department's or school's databases. It is also your source for volunteering! Some jobs are big, but no job is too small, and we need everyone's help! Please note committee chair openings in the Executive Board list to the right, and consider chairing an open committee. I'll *always* be here to help!

Important information about **volunteer clearances**, which are required for every event at which students are present including Hoagie Sales, can be found on the website's Boosters page. An administration representative will be available at our **first general meeting on Tuesday, August 15th at 7PM in the auditorium**, to collect paperwork and take pictures. Please plan to attend that meeting with completed clearance paperwork in hand! We are grateful to Administration for giving the Boosters this opportunity to expedite the required clearance process.

The quota for each hoagie sale is 75 per student per sale, 110 per sale for families with more than one child participating on the Trip (I've been there!), and the price per hoagie remains at \$6. The Trip Committee is already hard at work. Please stay alert for updates and changes.

I have been involved with the Boosters in various capacities on and off since 2001, and four of my five children have been part of almost every ensemble available at one time or another. This department and the opportunities it has afforded have meant the world to my family. Bethel Park simply has the best directors, the best music program, and the best ensembles around. Music picks people up when they are down and transcends the ordinary to make it extraordinary. It challenges our students' minds, expresses their hearts, and soothes their souls. What they do as high school musicians, matters, and for most of them, these will be some of the most significant experiences of their lives. I believe this with all my heart.

It's very important to me to be accessible when you need me, and truly, I look forward to meeting all of you. Call, text, or email any time but know I'm best at texting and email! There is no "silly" question, and I will work hard to keep you informed and make you a part of the Music Department Family.

Thank you for sharing your very gifted children with all of us.

Musically yours...

—Pam Bruchwalski

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BPHS Music Boosters Executive Board

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Senior Night: OPEN

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Ways and Means: Mary Jane McCall,
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Yearbook: Joanne and Tom Evans,
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BPHS "BLACK HAWK" MARCHING BAND

Band Camp will be held on the **Turf Field #1 at Bethel Park High School** unless indicated otherwise. The schedule for the weeks of band camp is as follows:

-August 7-11	8:00 AM - 1:30 PM
-August 14:	PICTURE DAY AND KENNYWOOD PARADE
-August 15, 16 and 18:	8:00 AM - 1:30 PM
-August 22:	3:30 - 5:00 PM
-August 24, 29, 30 and 31	2:45 - 4:30 PM
-September 1:	First Football Game (Home vs. North Allegheny)

Comfortable clothing is highly recommended and appropriate footwear must be worn for all marching rehearsals. **Tennis shoes are the only acceptable option. Sandals, flip-flops, and other such footwear are not permitted on the field.** This is in the best interest of the student as it is dangerous to march in any open toe footwear. Care should also be taken to provide necessary precautions against sunburn; students are strongly advised to wear sunblock and are encouraged to wear a hat.

Marching band is a demanding physical activity. For this reason, students must be adequately hydrated and fed. **Drink plenty of water prior and during band camp and PLEASE EAT BREAKFAST!** Bring healthy drinks and snacks with you to camp. Frequent, short breaks will be given throughout the day.

As has been the case each year, **attendance at band camp is absolutely mandatory** for all students who plan to perform with the Bethel Park High School "Black Hawk" Marching Band in the fall. If we plan on exceeding the high tradition of excellence we are known for, all students must be in attendance. Highly unusual conflicts with rehearsals should be referred to Mr. Thompson immediately.

What to bring:

- **Instrument** - all pieces of your instrument plus necessary cleaning supplies and maintenance accessories (i.e. valve oil, cleaning cloths, cork grease, stick bags with appropriate sticks and mallets, etc.)
- **Music** - pencil for writing maneuvers in music, sheet music for Pre-game and Show #1
- **Additional Items** - water bottle, clear liquid drinks, snacks, sunscreen, hat, etc.

BAND BUDDY DAY, BAND-O-MANIA, PICTURE DAY, KENNYWOOD PARADE AND BAND FESTIVAL

One of our longest running traditions is **Band Buddy Day**, which is when we open our rehearsal and welcome children young and old to a special sneak-peak performance of the "Black Hawk" Marching Band. This year's date is yet to be determined.

Band-o-mania and the Band Picnic is one of the students' most favorite activities of the year! Band-o-mania is a band-wide scavenger hunt. Students break up in teams, select a theme, dress in costume and follow a set of clever clues. The day concludes with a party to celebrate everyone's hard work during band camp. The date additional and more detailed info will be posted on the band website.

Picture Day will be held at the High School on Monday, August 14th beginning at 7:30 AM. Each student will take an individual photo, a section photo and a full band photo. Special group pictures can be arranged on a

case-by-case basis with the photographer. Additional and more detailed information on the schedule and pricing packages will be distributed during band camp.

The annual **Kennywood Fall Fantasy Parade** performance will take place on Monday, August 14th. Additional and more detailed information will be distributed during band camp. Parents interested in attending can find information on ticketing at www.kennywood.com.

The annual **Bethel Park High School "Black Hawk" Marching Band Festival** will be held on Saturday, October 7th @ 7:00 PM in the BPHS Stadium. Important information on festival program ads may be found on the website. Please consider putting a personal ad in the program to honor your marching band student!

PERFORMANCE ATTIRE FITTINGS:

All fittings will take place **between 5PM and 8PM** on the following days:

RETURNING MARCHING BAND

MEMBERS: Fittings will happen in the band room according to the following schedule:

Seniors - July 31st

Juniors - August 1st

Sophomore - August 2nd

Returning members should bring all uniform materials to his or her fitting to be re-checked (i.e. hat, sports bag, rain coats, etc). If you are also in Symphonic Band/Orchestra, please bring your tuxedo/dress to be re-fitted.

NEW MARCHING BAND MEMBERS:

Fittings will happen in the band room according to the following schedule:

August 3rd and 4th

New marching band members who also perform in Symphonic Band/Orchestra will be fitted for a tuxedo/dress at this time.

SYMPHONIC BAND, SYMPHONIC**ORCHESTRA AND TOP 21 ONLY MEMBERS:**

Fittings for students ONLY in Symphonic Band or Symphonic Orchestra will occur during the school year beginning in September.

Please be patient during your uniform fitting. Issuing and refitting uniforms to nearly two-hundred students takes time and we want every student to be fitted properly for a good appearance and to extend the life of the uniform.

If any member is unable to attend their designated uniform fitting, please contact the performance attire chairs @ performanceattire@verizon.net to make alternate arrangements no later than July 19th.

Note: *Marching Band shoes should have been ordered during mini-camp. If you did not fill out an order or pay for your shoes, please contact Mr. Thompson immediately.*

**ALL FITTINGS, July 31st-Aug. 4
5PM to 8PM**

HOAGIE SALES (GRADES 10-12 ONLY)

Hoagie Sales are a Bethel Park institution! This is the only form of fundraising we use throughout the year. ***Students who travel as a part of the Annual Music Spring Trip (grades 10-12) are asked to sell a quota for each of the dates listed below.*** The quota resets every sale. Individuals are asked to sell 75 hoagies every sale while families of two students are asked to sell 110 every sale. Further information about hoagie sales and the hoagie handbook may be found on the music department website: www.bpsdmusic.weebly.com

Please take the time to read through the information in the handbook to understand exactly what is expected.

DATES:

September 16th, October 28th, January 20th, February 17th and April 14th

PRICING:

\$6.00 per hoagie

TYPES:

Regular (Italian hoagie with lettuce and tomato), **Special** (Italian hoagie with lettuce and tomato on the side) and **Turkey** (lettuce and tomato on the side)

*We understand that the hoagie sales might seem like a huge task. But, please know that there are a number of support systems to help students make the quota. In addition, band hoagies have been a Bethel Park tradition for decades - they literally sell themselves. We are providing a high quality product to the people of Bethel Park. Each of the students are participating in an authentic customer service experience.



Bethel Park High School has enjoyed a long and successful career with PMEA. Our students are frequent performers in District, Region and All-state PMEA Music Festivals. Please find general information about the festivals in which we participate:

Honors Orchestra

Strings students in grades 9-12 may audition. Information on auditions can be found on the District 1 website at www.district1.pmea.net

Honors Band

Woodwind, brass and percussion students in grades 9-12 may audition. Students in grades 10-12 can earn an automatic selection in to District Band by placing in the top of their sections. Further information on auditions can be found on the District 1 website at www.district1.pmea.net

Honors Jazz

Saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano, bass, guitar and percussion students in grades 9-12 may audition. Further information on auditions can be found on the District 1 website at www.district1.pmea.net

District Chorus

Chorus students in grades 10-12 interested in participating in District Chorus must first pass a competitive audition. Students will re-audition at the festival on their concert music in order to move on to Region Chorus.

District Band

Woodwind, brass and percussion students in grades 10-12 must apply to District Band. If selected, students will participate in a seating audition on their concert music to earn a spot in Region Band.

District Orchestra

Strings, woodwind, brass and percussion students in grades 10-12 must apply to District Orchestra. If selected, students will participate in a seating audition on their concert music to earn a spot in Western Region Orchestra. Woodwinds, brass and percussionists must successfully pass the Honors Band audition to be considered for District Orchestra.

Region Band, Chorus and Orchestra

Students who earn a spot in either Region Band, Chorus or Orchestra will participate in a seating audition on their concert music. The result of this audition determines selection to the All-state Music Festival.

PMEA All-State Music Festival

The PMEA All-State Music Festival includes the following ensembles: All-State Chorus, All-State Band, All-State Wind Ensemble and All-State Orchestra. Students who achieve this level will be performing with peers from all across the state.

Additional information on auditions and dates for all events may be found on the District 1 PMEA Website: <http://district1.pmea.net>