

***Music Department – “Golden Knights” Marching Band  
Northern Valley Regional High School at Old Tappan***

July 17, 2010

Dear Students and Parents:

I'm very happy to be a part of a major environmental step this year: to create a “greener” and paperless work environment for our Marching Band. I am indebted to our Music Parents Vice President, Mrs. Chona Freedman, who has assisted me greatly in this endeavor. Instead of mailing this letter, copying music parts, and printing drill charts, we are attempting to communicate and delivery everything this year electronically. This will save thousands of sheets of paper, save postage costs for NVOT, and do our part to reduce our carbon footprint.

**Parents:** Please read this entire email carefully, and discuss its contents with your son/daughter. Then, please follow the link below to complete the Summer Information Form. (I have also sent this to all students with current working NVNET FirstClass addresses.)

**Students:** Please read this entire email carefully, and discuss its contents with your parents. Please help them to follow the link below and complete the Summer Information form. (I've also sent this email to your parents.)

Once you have read this email, please go to:

[Summer Information Form](#)

and complete attendance at activities and rehearsals in August, emergency medical information, ordering marching band shoes (for those who need them), customizing T-shirts, and to acknowledge our attendance rules. **Please complete this online form by Friday, July 23, and send checks for payments (if necessary) by Friday, July 30.** (If you do not receive this email for some reason until after July 23, please complete the Summer Information Form and send any payments necessary as soon as possible.)

In addition, if you have not yet completed the online Personnel Form, or if you need to update your profile, (for our Music Department database), please do so by going to:

[Music Department Personnel Data Form](#)

This important email provides details regarding (you can click on these links to navigate to these sections of this message):

- [August Activities and Band Camp Rehearsals](#)
- [Regular Fall Rehearsals after Band Camp](#)
- [Rehearsals/Performance Schedule](#)
- [2010 Show Music & Drill Charts](#)
- [What to bring to Band Camp](#)
- [Attendance Policy](#)
- [Marching Shoes & Socks](#)
- [2010 T-shirts](#)
- [Medical Information](#)
- [Final Notes](#)

- [Important Web Resources](#)

### ***August Activities and Band Camp Rehearsals***

Click here to download the full [Fall 2010 Marching Band Schedule](#) (PDF document).

We will start the season with these Pre-Camp activities:

- **Color Guard Rehearsals** on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 18, 19, 20, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm with our Color Guard Instructor. These rehearsals will concentrate on fundamental spinning and handling skills in preparation for Band Camp.
- **Percussion Rehearsals** on Thursday, August 19 from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, and Friday, August 20, from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, with Mr. Rosolanko. He will run these rehearsals to get both the field percussion and pit percussion “up and running.” As in the past 4 years, we ask that all percussionists attend. Our percussion instructor, Mr. Nick Rosolanko (Band Director, Charles DeWolf School), will be running these rehearsals.
- **New Member Orientation** on Friday, August 20, 12:00-3:00 pm. New members will be taught marching fundamentals, receive instruction about reading charts, and will have a chance to meet and greet other new members and Band Staff leaders.
- **Band Staff** will meet on Thursday & Friday, August 19 & 20, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. Our student leadership team (chosen this past Spring) will prepare all materials for Band Camp and the season.

### ***Regular Fall Rehearsals after Band Camp***

- After Band Camp ends and school begins, we rehearse twice a week, every week, until the end of October. Rehearsals are held Wednesdays (beginning September 1) from 6:00-9:00 pm, and Fridays (beginning September 17) from 3:00-6:00 pm.
- \*There are two exceptions to the mid-week rehearsals when we must rehearse on Tuesdays instead of Wednesdays. These rehearsals will be held on Tuesdays, September 7 & 14, because of the Jewish holidays which occur during those weeks. We rehearse on Wednesdays during all other weeks.
- **Mid-week rehearsals must begin at 6:00 pm this year** because of the shortened time we have on Fridays. We must now perform at pre-game at away games (mandated by the new Big North Conference rules), and so we lose rehearsal time on Fridays due to the early departure schedule for these performances.
- Note that we have no rehearsal on Friday, September 3 (Labor Day weekend), and Friday, September 10 (Rosh Hashanah). However, we *will* have rehearsal after school on Friday, September 17, 3:00-5:30 pm (sundown occurs at 7:03 pm).
- Be sure to check my [website online calendar](#) for all rehearsals and performances. Any changes due to weather or cancellation will be noted there.

### ***Rehearsals/Performance Schedule***

As noted above, make sure you have downloaded and printed the [Fall 2010 Marching Band Schedule](#). **Post it somewhere where the entire family can refer to it** to help you plan your fall! Don't let the detailed nature of the schedule frighten you – it is simply our intent to give you all the information you need now – so you can plan and avoid conflicts. Remember to check my website's [website online calendar](#) as well for updates to scheduled rehearsals and performances.

## ***2010 Show Music and Drill Charts***

Our show this year is devoted to the music of Billy Joel. The show includes *We Didn't Start the Fire*, *Piano Man*, *My Life*, *Only the Good Die Young*, *Air DuBlinesque*, and *Just the Way You Are*. **You must download your music from the Marching Band page of my website.** (Percussionists will receive final music assignments at the pre-camp rehearsals on August 19 and 20.)

**Download your music parts!** Your music parts will be available **after July 18**. Go to the [Marching Band page of my website](#), and you will see the music downloads. See below regarding the password you need to unlock the PDF music documents. Find your instrument/name, and download the set of parts in a PDF file. You need to download 3 sets of music for your instrument:

- Halftime (you will need the password, see below)
- Pregame/Warmups
- America the Beautiful

**The password to unlock the halftime music PDF's is GKMB1248 (you must use capital letters!)**

**Download the recordings!** Download the MP3 recordings of all the show music from the Marching Band web page to help you with your practice.

**Drill charts and Drillbooks:** At New Member Orientation we will also discuss downloading field charts, which will also be available via download from my website, and how to transfer information for your position into your Drill book.

**Formers** are expected to come to camp on August 23 with all music prepared and ready to memorize during Band Camp.

**New members** should begin to practice their music, knowing that they will receive ample music instruction and memorization assistance during Band Camp.

## ***What to bring to Band Camp***

- **Your instrument or flag/saber/rifle.** (Color Guard will be notified about equipment.)
- **Your music**, downloaded from the website, after July 18. Be sure to bring all Halftime, Pregame/Warmup, and America the Beautiful parts!
- **Drill/rehearsal clothes - White T-Shirt** (colored designs on the white shirt are OK); **dark shorts or jeans**; and **sneakers with socks** (this gives your feet the best support - *flipflops or shoes without socks are not acceptable*). We ask our members to dress in this manner because it lends a sense of unity, like a sports team. 2010 GKMB shirts will be distributed during camp; everyone must have one because we use it as an informal uniform when it is too warm to keep the uniform jackets on.
- **Sunglasses/hat** for the drill field. We'll be marching in the evenings under the lights, but it's possible that we will be starting before the sun has set.
- **Mosquito repellent** is necessary because the bugs are drawn onto the lighted field.
- **Pencil** - A pencil for music rehearsals and drills is **mandatory!** A highlighter pen is also a good idea.

- **Drillbook - a small blank notebook (3x5" or 4x6")** for your drill notes. (We used to use note cards. A small notebook will work better than individual note cards, and will last longer as well.) You can get one at CVS, Staples, or any stationery store.
- **Lanyard** – Although a piece of string will work, a lanyard will be much better for keeping your drill notebook around your neck during drills.
- **2 expendable CD's or plastic jar lids** - Mark these with your name. These will be used at rehearsals to help you keep track of your positions on the field during rehearsals.
- **Dinner/water bottle** – We recommend that you eat a good lunch each day before coming to camp. If you did not order dinner through the Music Parents, be sure to bring a meal/snack/drink for the break we will have daily at about 6:00 pm. Please bring food with you at 2:00 pm; I strongly urge parents to **not** drop off food everyday, as the actual time for dinner each day is difficult to coordinate. **Remember: Students are not permitted to leave the NVOT campus during dinner break.**

### *Attendance Policy*

Our attendance policy is simple: **All members must attend all scheduled rehearsals and performances.** With such a large band, everyone's presence is integral to the success of all. We cannot teach at this level without everyone present. Each member of the ensemble is our most important member! Remember that your Co-Curricular Credit and Music Letter status are dependent upon your attendance record. If a personal conflict arises (medical, dental, family, etc.), it is your responsibility to resolve it. If it is unavoidable, you must complete an Absence Card to document the conflict in writing (see me for these cards). **Absence Cards must be submitted no less than one week ahead of a rehearsal date, or no less than two weeks ahead of a performance date.** No conflicts can be excused, and you cannot maintain your attendance record, without written submission and approval. NOTE: If you already noted a conflict on your blue registration form, you still must submit an Absence Card for each date!

Be sure to download and read the [Marching Band Co-Curricular & Music Letter Award Rules for Attendance](#) (this PDF is also posted on [Marching Band page](#) of my website and duplicated on the [Summer Information Form](#)).

**Always plan to arrive 15 minutes before every scheduled rehearsal** to sign in, prepare, and warm-up. Arriving in time to prepare before rehearsal begins establishes a positive pattern for all things in life.

**Remember that students are not allowed to leave rehearsals** during Band Camp or rehearsals/performances during the school year without written permission from parents/guardians.

### *Marching Shoes & Socks*



It is very important to have the proper shoes for this activity. We are not trying to sell shoes, but rather we are concerned about students having shoes that match our uniform, fit comfortably, and show uniformity throughout our band. We strongly recommend that all members wear the shoes we recommend, which we can order on your behalf at reduced cost on the Summer Information Form.

**Winds/Percussion:** Our uniform shoes are a black oxford style, laced, all-black, no markings or insignias of any kind, flexible sole that will "roll" with each step.

**Color Guard:** It is necessary to order our specific Guard shoe, so they match uniformly and allow you to move correctly. Black sneakers and black walking shoes *do not* meet these criteria.

We reserve the right to disallow shoes that do not match these criteria.

**Long black socks** must be worn by everyone. White socks and short/ankle length socks disrupt the uniformity of our style and are not allowed.

### ***2010 T-shirts***

Your activity fee (paid with registration) included your GKMB T-shirt. Last year we added a new option: You can personalize the back of your T-shirt for a \$5.00 additional charge, with your name (first name, last name, or nickname) and your two-digit graduation year – like a football jersey. Or you can get the standard back design, which is our season schedule, for no additional charge. If you'd like to order an additional shirt (to have a spare clean shirt, or for parents), you can also do so. Make sure you select your option on the [Summer Information Form](#). **Make sure you complete this online form by July 23;** otherwise we cannot guarantee the personalized and additional orders. We must adhere to a schedule with the T-shirt manufacturer in order to guarantee delivery in time for Band Camp.

### ***Medical Information***

You do not need to see your family physician for a physical; this is not required for Marching Band. However, we do ask that you complete some emergency medical information (allergies, previous medical conditions, physician contact information, etc.) on the [Summer Information Form](#). This information could be very important in the event of an emergency during a rehearsal or performance.

### ***Final Notes***

Please complete the [Summer Information Form](#) by Friday, July 23. This confirms your presence at the Pre-Camp rehearsals, New Member Orientation, and Band Camp, and gives you the option of personalizing your T-shirt, and helps you by allowing us to order marching shoes on your behalf at a reduced cost. **Please reply by July 23 so I can expedite the many aspects of coordinating this band!!!**

### **IMPORTANT!**

- This year, all new members will be assigned to a student **Mentor** during Band Camp, who will assist you during Band camp and the beginning of the season. Feel free to ask him/her for help in answering questions and assisting you as you become more familiar with our program.
- **SAT classes** – Please note that we cannot excuse students from any rehearsals/performances because of SAT prep classes. If you wish to take such a class, please do so that it does not conflict with our scheduled rehearsals and performances. Instead, choose another class that does not conflict with our schedule, especially with the Tuesday/Wednesday evening rehearsal schedule.

- **Students considering a sports team** – As our athletic program has evolved, playing a fall sport while committing to Marching Band is a double commitment, and **it is simply not possible to participate in two activities which occur concurrently**. You are receiving this email because you chose to be a member of the 2010 Marching Band, and now – with the drill choreographed for the number of players registered – we are counting on you to follow through on your commitment to the Band!

### *Important Web Resources*

I am constantly posting announcements and updates on the website at [www.ebernet.com/nvot](http://www.ebernet.com/nvot). Bookmark it and check it regularly. Last minute weather delays and other important announcements are posted here, rather than communicated through a phone chain.

Finally, remember to:

- Reply on the [Summer Information Form](#) by July 23, and mail payments by July 30.
- Download your music from the website after July 18. Start to practice music before Band Camp. The PDF password to unlock the documents is **GKMB1248** (case sensitive – use the capital letters!).
- Bookmark each of these important web links referred to in this email, summarized below.

[Personnel Information login/update](#)

[Summer Information Form](#)

[Fall 2010 Schedule \(PDF\)](#)

[Website Online Calendar](#) (month to month format)

[Download music parts](#) from the website [Marching Band page](#)

[Co-Curricular and Music Letter Rules for Attendance \(PDF\)](#)

Mr. Ebersole's email – [ebersole@nvnet.org](mailto:ebersole@nvnet.org)

Mr. Ebersole's Instrumental Music website – <http://www.ebernet.com/nvot>

Thank you for helping me to take this big environmental step with these online communications and responses. I am looking forward to seeing you soon in August!

Sincerely,

*Curt Ebersole*

Curt Ebersole  
Director of Bands