

VALHALLA NORSEMEN NOTES

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Our Director

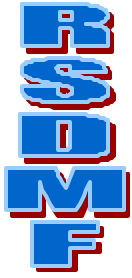
If you missed the District Honor Band Concert, you missed a great performance. With 24 musicians of the 58-piece honor band coming from Valhalla, the band presented one of the best ensemble sounds I have heard from the District Honor Bands in over 8 years. I believe most of the credit for that goes to our great musicians and their ability to play together. And what a great guest conductor we had in Ms. Paula Crider. I know that the students learned a lot from her as well as their director. Of special note, Ms Crider is a judge/clinician for a festival in England. She is allowed to invite 2 groups to this festival and because of the quality of the musicians representing us at the honor band she extended an invitation for Valhalla to be one of those bands to attend the festival in England. I consider this a great honor and see it as a statement to the quality music program that we have at Valhalla. To date we have an invitation to the official 4th of July Parade on Washington D.C. and now an invitation to a prestigious festival in England. Way to go everyone!! We will be giving serious thought as to what our answer(s) will be.

As we start our second semester, we move into a time where smaller parts of the instrumental music department fragment off to do performances. No longer do we have the Marching Band to keep us focused. Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Percussion Ensemble, drum line, Colorguard, Jazz Band and String Orchestra now do their own thing. So, you thought it was busy before.

From the playing finals last semester, it became apparent that several students are playing instruments that are too small (inferior) for them. Our Concert Band Flute section had the majority of those instruments. In a nutshell, the instrument they are playing on was designed to accommodate a child the size and shape similar to an elementary and at best middle school student. So put in perspective, they are playing on a "little league Caps" instrument but should be playing on a "Pony" or "College" level instrument. In short, the air that they put into the instrument is coming back at them because the mouthpiece is too small. The good news (and yes there is good news) is that the instrument they are playing on now has value, not to your musician daughter but to the music store that will be able to use it as a rental for a potential elementary music student. This makes it great down payment for a new flute. As to that new flute, it will be an investment for sure but that's where another positive comes. As it is an investment, the instrument will go up in value so in time it will be worth more than what you bought it for. Until that time, the tone and intonation from those inferior flutes will adversely affect those students playing test grades, as these are 2 of the major categories in playing tests.

Finally, some basic reminders for everyone. Be sure to have your son/daughter complete their concert report before the end of the year. Check to make sure they have their solo/ensemble piece for their performance requirement. And be sure that your student donations are up to date. Remember, now that we are a 501C3 organization (RSDMF) those donations are tax deductible.

Mr. Almanza



PMAG
(Parent Music Advocacy Group)

We are truly blessed to have in our district a group of volunteer parents who meet every month to promote the needs and desires of the instrumental music departments of GUHSD. This is really unprecedented in booster groups and very uncommon in the United States. These parents are from each school band booster program and work on projects that affect all music students in our district. For example, they are the sponsors of the District Showcase and the District Honor Band. They are also our advocates with regards to political issues with our district office. It was this group, for example, that was instrumental in getting the district to provide capital outlay money for the programs back in the late 80's.

This month, Valhalla will be hosting the monthly meeting on the 21st (Wednesday) @ 7:00 PM in the music room. This group will need some new officers for next year and I would love to see some more Valhalla parents be a part of this group. This group will be instrumental in some future upcoming issues, some of which include \$ from the district for staff and coaches for our music programs as well as additional bus \$. You would be surprised and maybe amazed to know that "Band Parents" have a lot of clout and say with superintendents and school board members. Won't you please consider being a part of this valuable group? The potential here is tremendous! Thanks for thinking about it!



2006- 2007 RSDMF Board

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(Chaparones)
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Committee Members Wanted:

We are kicking off the formation of the “New Instrumental Music Room” Committee and we need individuals like you who are willing to give some of their time and effort to see this new facility come into fruition. A day does not go by that someone (and it’s not always Mr. Almanza) says, “We need a new band room!” after running into something or someone. With the growth of our program this is just the next logical need for the program as a whole. Not having the proper practice rooms and storage facility is a major handicap for our current program as is the acoustics of the room. For those that are unaware, the current music room was built with band booster money back in the mid 80’s. The original band room was next door to the choir room and the same size as the choir room. If you would like to have a part in the new room, please contact Mr. Almanza in the music room (593-5431) or email him at ralmanza@guhsd.net. Thank you for helping our program move forward.

Old/New Fundraiser Idea needs someone special.

Several years ago the Padres used to play at Qualcomm Stadium. During those games, Valhalla Band Boosters would work a concession booth to raise money for our program and the money was substantial. When the Padres left for Petco Park, we did not follow because of cost and other factors that prohibited us from working at Petco Park. We are exploring the possibility of starting up again at Qualcomm but we need a parent (or parents) who would be willing to be the supervisor for our program. They would be our liaison with the vendor company at Qualcomm and the one in charge of organizing the troops from Valhalla who will be working at the concession stand. It takes time to do the logistical work involved but the financial gain for our program is very, very good. It is going to take someone with a giving heart to donate their time and effort for others but that is the spirit that has made our program the great program it is to date. If that person is you, please contact either Cathy Gac or Mr. Almanza. Thank you for considering this opportunity.

At the General Information meeting on February 6th, the Treasurer reported that the program's finances are in significant trouble. Even with the upcoming fundraisers the budget is projected to be more than \$12,000 in debt at the end of the school year. **The revenue shortfall is student's fees.** *Over a quarter of the students have not paid one dollar towards their fees.* Just less than half have paid in full; the remaining students are paying monthly.

Were all fees paid in full, by the end of the academic year, our program would not be in debt.

If you have a question regarding the fees program or how much you owe, contact Mr. Almanza or Barbie, respectively, at 619.593.5431. The General Information meetings are usually the first Tuesday of the month

BAND FEES are determined each year by the projected costs to run the program divided by the number of students (including Jazz Band and String Orchestra). This year's total is \$730 for each Marching Band and Color Guard student and \$500 for each Jazz and String Orchestra student. Three payment options are described below:

For Marching Band & color Guard students:

Option #1: Monthly payments of \$46.50 (over 10 months). Students are still asked to participate in fund raising to make up the balance of the total cost.

Option #2: One payment of \$465.00. Students are still asked to participate in fund raising to make up the balance of the total cost.

Option #3: One payment of \$730.00. Students can option out of all fund-raising for the year.

As an incentive, \$50 is deducted when the student's full amount (either \$465 or \$730) is paid by November 15, 2006.

Payment options for String Orchestra and Jazz students:

Option #1: Monthly Payment of \$30 (over 10 months). Students are still asked to participate in fund raising to make up the balance of the total cost.

Option #2: One payment of \$300. Students are still asked to participate in fund raising to make up the balance of the total cost.

Option #3: One payment of \$500.00. Students can option out of all fund-raising for the year.

The \$50 incentive for paying the student's full amount (either \$300 or \$500) by November 15, 2006 also applies.

Upcoming Fund Raisers

Auction

Friday, March 9 in the VHS Student Center

Annual Golf Tournament

May 5, 2007

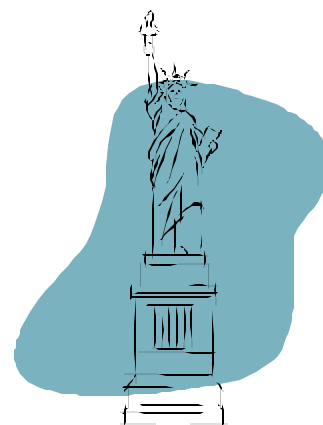
Instrumental Music Department 2007 Schedule

March 1st	Pre-Festival Concert (Hillsdale)
March 3 rd	Helix Solo/Ensemble Festival
March 8 th	El Camino HS Band & Orchestra Festival
March 9 th	Orchestra Concert
March 16-17 th	Grossmont Band & Orchestra Festival
March 24 th	Fullerton Jazz Festival
April 5th – April 10th	Spring Tour to New York
April 25 th	San Elijo Jazz Festival
April 28 th	Valhalla Jazz Festival
May 5 th	Coronado Jazz Festival
May 12 th	RCC Jazz Festival
May 18 th	Music Till Midnight
May 24 th	Pops Concert
June 1 st	Awards Dinner
June 8 th	Graduation (Band plays)

ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. Details concerning times will be given when available. Please reserve these dates on your calendar. Remember, only you can fill your position! You are needed for all events; there are no substitutes to fill your position. If you have a conflict, it must be cleared as soon as possible and meet the requirements of the school and district.

Date Changes New York Trip:

We have had some date changes to our New York Tour and knowing that not all of the participants have told their parents, we thought it prudent to attempt one more way of letting you know of those date changes. The changes were made in an attempt to save the participants money. The new dates for the tour are April 5th (Thursday) to April 10th (Tuesday). The new cost is \$1,699.00 for the student price and \$2,109.00 for the adult price. For those that have paid the original amount a refund check has already been cut and sent out. If you believe you are owed one and have not received one yet, contact On-Trek at 877-613-7170. We will not be going to a New York Symphony Concert but will be going instead to a Julliard Symphony Orchestra Concert. Since the trip will now take us through Easter we will be making arrangements for any student who wishes to attend Easter Service at St. Paul's Cathedral (a non-denominational church service). As we get closer to the trip we will be having after school rehearsals for the NY Tour Band (dates and times to be announced later). That's it for now. More information when it comes available.



Drumline

is off to a great start! This year we are shooting for bigger and better than ever before and we are coming into it stronger than I have ever seen at Valhalla! This year's show is entitled "Inchon" and is based on a work by Robert W. Smith. It is a totally new concept for our drumline and the kids are doing great with it. We are competing this year at the ADLA Circuit, as well as, WGI in Las Vegas. Check out our website (under percussion) for more details. Come out and support the drumline at a show.

The performance schedule for this year will be:

Feb 24 Los Amigos HS

Mar 2-5 WGI Regional (Las Vegas)

Mar 10 Tesoro HS

Mar 24 Los Amigos HS

Apr 28 Tesoro HS

May 12 Tesoro HS (Championships)

All dates/times are tentative. Exact times will be given as soon as I know them.

Colorguard

Come watch and support your award winning Colorguard during their indoor season!

February 17 (Saturday) Competition @ Eastlake H.S.

February 23 (Friday Night) Competition @ Mira Mesa H.S.

March 2nd -5th – Las Vegas Trip. – WGI Regionals

March 17th – (Saturday) Competition @ Mira Mesa H.S.

March 23rd (Friday) Competition @ Escondido H.S.

April 21st – (Saturday) Championships @ TBA

Did you know... Valhalla Instrumental Music Dept. has a website?

www.vhsmusic.org.

Plenty of helpful information, schedules and pictures! Updated consistently.

Sectional information.

Sectionals are considered assigned homework and are graded accordingly. Missing sectionals for other class homework is not excusable for the students. Assigning homework is a district directive and sectionals fulfill that requirement. Sectionals will not be assigned on days with night rehearsals.

Congratulations!!!

Congratulations to **Cameron Hayes** who will be representing Valhalla High School Instrumental Music at the State Honor Band in February. He will be going up to Fresno on February 15th where he will audition again for chair placement. After 3 days of rehearsal he will perform in the Saroyan Theater on February 18th.

Top 10 Things To Do With Bad Reeds

10. Light them on fire. Watch them burn.
9. Break them into thousands of little pieces. Count them. (Especially effective as a stress releaser)
8. Smash them into the wall. (Especially effective after a really lousy performance where it really *was* the reed's fault)
7. Collect them.
6. Build a fence with them.
5. Wall-paper your room.
4. Put them in the spokes of a child's bike.
3. Use them as paint mixers.
2. Put them back in the box and try to return them.
1. Put them back in the box and sell them to middle-school clarinetists at double retail value. (They'll never know the difference)

*Norsemen Notes is published by the Valhalla Instrumental Music and Colorguard Parents booster club.
Submissions can be sent to R.B. Anthony (rbanthony@gmail.com) Deadlines are the third Tuesday of every month.*