

VALHALLA NORSEMEN NOTES

Volume 11, Issue 1

September, 2006

Our Director

It's hard to believe that any year could be more "Incredible" than last year. But this year has all the makings of surpassing last year. To begin with, the marching band is bigger (we will be competing in 4A this year) and the students could play, spin and march the 1st number of the competition field show at the end of the 2-week band camp. Granted it was, as they say, "dirty" but we could not march and play the opener last year for a couple of weeks after band camp. Another indicator is the outstanding turnout of parents so far, at the culminating Friday night dinner/showcase of band camp, at the uniform fittings and sewing sessions, to help as boosters in general, etc.

We'd love to see that same turnout of parents at our competitions sitting together in a sea of orange in the stands. To that end we have talked to our shirt vendor about getting orange shirts for our parents and boosters. Watch your email for order forms soon. We will arrange to have pre ticket orders for our competitions, carpools to the local competitions and maybe even arrange for a bus for the trips further away. It is a great way to stay connected with your son or daughter and help them at their competition by cheering them on. You might even want to consider being one of the chaperones that travel with the band and help with the preparation at each event.

We have our next parent booster meeting on Tuesday, October 3rd @ 6:30 pm in the music room (Room 227). I would encourage you to have at least one family member at this meeting. We have many things to ask and tell our families which include an overview on the financial changes for this year. In addition you will hear about the money that is coming down from the state to music programs and how that might affect our program. Also the latest on the Prop H money as it pertains to instrumental music at Valhalla.

We have a great staff this year that I'd like you to have the opportunity to get to know. Returning as Assistant Band Director and Percussion Coach is Mr. Carl Reed. Back as Color Guard Advisor and Secretary to the program is Mrs. Barbie Anthony. Coming on board again as Marching Tech and Drum Major Coach is Pat Lacson. Helping Barbie again with the Color Guard is Katie Gagliardi. New this year is Marching Tech Kevin Haligen and returning alumni Elizabeth Hanson. Also new this year is Pit Instructor Erica Yenter. And finally, helping out with the Orchestra this year is Mr. Roy Anthony (retired).

Our Jazz Band is a veteran group this year with some new (and talented) additions. We've filled in the voids from last year and added some musicians in some key places. I can say with all honesty that there isn't a weak section in the band this year. Which means that this year we will be going up a level at jazz festivals.

I hope to see each and every one of you this year. It brings me complete joy to be able to provide for your children the best possible music program for their benefit and joy that is possible at Valhalla. We see the Valhalla instrumental music program as one that challenges the students to excel and become better individuals than they were when they started the year with us. Our goal is make them better prepared for when they go to college or start their career. To that end we promise you the best education that we can give.

Mr. Almanza



It is hard to believe another fall and marching all of our new students and families and welcome fantastic start for our year. Band camp, uniform are just a part of the many activities in and around our band room. Thanks to all of the families (too many to name!) who have stepped forward with help on communication, uniforms, fund raising and much, much more.

season have rolled around! Welcome to back to those returning. We are off to a alterations, practice logs, fund-raising all

We had a great start at our first football game. Congratulations to our students for a great job. Thanks to all or our staff for the countless hours they dedicate to our students.

Our first booster club meeting was well attended and had an agenda full of great information. Remember the meetings are open to all and are on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM

Our back to school pot-luck is September 21st . This is a fun get together for families followed by a chance to see the progress our students have made. Information regarding membership and Escrip sign up will be available. There is no meeting or agenda on this night, just fun! More information will be sent home with your student regarding items to bring for the dinner.

Be sure to attend our competitions and events. We want to see the bleachers filled with orange!

Cathy Gac
Booster Club President

Congratulations to everyone for surviving BAND CAMP!!!!

Well, we are off to a great start. I am sooooo looking forward to this year. We have new comps to go to and a show that I've been dying to do for a long time. The marching is looking strong and the band is sounding good. Color guard will once again be the back bone to our visual success. The drumline is the largest that it has ever been at Valhalla and I know heads will turn when we set up!



I hope all parents and friends will attend every comp this year! For the last couple of years, we have made strives to becoming one of the "big bands" in So Cal. But with that, comes many factors. We need our parents more than ever. Helping with uniforms, chaperones & equipment. Did you know that we are putting up 18 back drops this year? That means we need at least 18 parents to help set that up. We are also using electronics and a soloist box. That (plus all the color guard equipment) equals a ton of stuff. Please contact our parent organization to volunteer to help. Even 1 comp would come in handy for us. One of the fondest memories I have of my Dad is when he used to run the Bar-B-Que for our band @ the Mt. Carmel Tournament. At first I thought he would just be an embarrassment to me (and he was), but to this day, my friends still talk about my Dad and the bar-b-que...20+ years later. Get involved...your kids are worth it!

I hope to see you all at the comps! So...wear your orange...support your kids...cheer us on to victory!

Mr. Reed

2006- 2007 VIMCP Board

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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.

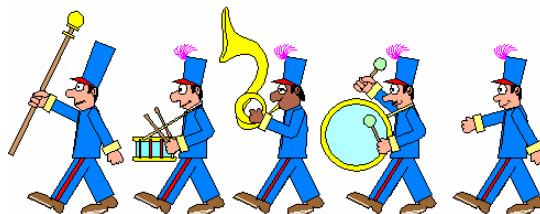
Payment options for String Orchestra and Jazz students:

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.



Instrumental Music Department 2006/2007 Schedule

September 8 TH	Home Football Game
October 7 TH	Alpine Parade/Westview Field Tournament
October 12 th	Home Football Game
October 25 th	Jazz Band Concert @ Hillsdale
October 20 th	Home Football Game (Homecoming)
October 28 th	Loara Band Review & Field Tournament (Santa Ana)
November 4 th	Mira Mesa Band Review & Field Tournament
November 8 th	Orchestra Concert
November 9 th	Home Football Game
November 10 th	Jazz band Concert (off campus - STBA)
November 18 th	West Arcadia Band Review
	Savanna Field Tournament
November 21st	District Field Show – El Capitian H.S.
December 14 th	Winter Concert
January 25 th	Jazz Band Concert
February 28 th	Pre-Festival Concert (Hillsdale)
March 3 rd	Helix Solo/Ensemble Festival
March 6 th	Orchestra Concert
March 8 th	El Camino HS Band & Orchestra Festival
March 12 th	Hillsdale Solo & Ensemble Festival
March 16-17 th	Grossmont Band & Orchestra Festival
March 30th – April 4th	Spring Tour to New York
April 28 th	Valhalla Jazz Festival
May 5 th	Jazz Festival
May 12 th	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.

Drum Line, Indoor Color Guard and further Jazz Festival dates will come later when we receive the schedules from the organizations in charge.

Marching Band rehearsals are Mondays and Thursdays from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

Every new school year, new Band & Colorguard parents are flummoxed by the entirely new World of Marching lexicon. Here are some definitions of words or phrases you might come across.

- **Band Review:** A judged parade
- **Field Show:** The marching show you see at football games and tournaments
- **The Pit:** The group of percussionists that stand at the front of the field
- **Breathing:** More of an exercise than a vital form of life
- **On Time:** 15 minutes early!
- **Halt:** A time when everyone is theoretically stopped
- **Parade Rest:** A form of relaxation while standing up. Little talking, but some required to keep band members sane
- **One More Time:** We'll do this over and over until we get it right.
- **Drill:** The field show formation
- **The Block:** Parade formation

You've Been In Marching Band If...

- You hear music and you start marking time.
- You walk behind someone and you're in step with them.
- People worry when they see you without you instrument
- You see your section more than you see your family
- You can put on you uniform in less than 10 minutes
- You roll-step through the cafeteria so you don't spill your lunch.
- The drummers start making sense to you
- People ask you about your social life and you say, "Oh, you mean my flute/trumpet/drum/etc.?"

You've Been In Colorguard If...

- You spin pencils/pens/mops/brooms/pool cues, etc.
- You hear a song you've done a routine to, you get ecstatic
- You know how to wrap your own bandages
- You can catch anything thrown at you.
- Every song becomes a possible flag routine
- You can do your hair and make-up anywhere
- You have a permanent rifle bruise on your left and right thumbs
- All your favorite songs have this one part that would be "perfect for a rifle feature."



Norsemen Notes is published monthly 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.

Chaperone Tips

- Football games are the best intro to Chaperoning. Help the band and colorguard while in the stands and enjoy a football game too!
 - Band Reviews & Field Shows - Come prepared with a backpack with your lunch, sunscreen, sweatshirt, water bottle and cell phone.
 - Don't hesitate to jump in and help. Prepping the band and colorguard is a bit of a timed event in itself.
 - Remember, the kids love having you there, and they can't do it without your help!
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The ABCs of Band

Always **A**rticulate,
Don't forget to **B**reathe!
Crescendo and
Dimenuendo;
Be **E**motional,
But don't overlook the **F**undamentals!
Gracenotes can be annoying,
But be glad you don't have upbeats like the **H**orns :)
Improvisation is difficult,
But it pays off when playing **J**azz.
Check the **K**ey-Signature first,
And when in doubt--**L**OUDER--
Especially during **M**arching Season!
Watch the **N**otes,
And be most concerned with **O**ctave jumps,
But don't forget to play with a little **P**inache!
Quartertones are only in oriental music,
So you're probably just **R**EALLY **S**HARP!
Trust your director,
But make sure you **U**nderstand his interpretation.
A little more **V**erve, **W**oodwinds,
And don't forget the **X**ylophone!
Give it **Y**our all,
And you'll **Z**oom straight to the stars!