



7/13/2009

HELLO Jordan Band Family,

Greetings to ALL! I hope this letter finds you rested, relaxed, and enjoying your summer vacation. Mine has been pretty awesome, family filled and very relaxing. Sleep is such a wonderful thing!!! We went to the beach for a few days in June and we've been having a restful summer. My 3 kids are growing by the day and we've really had a great time hanging out and doing plenty of nothing! Needless to say, as relaxing and as much fun as this time has been, I am eagerly looking forward to our camp, the upcoming school year and plans are under way for what will be a very exciting marching season.

I am very pleased to announce (in case you haven't heard) that the C.E. Jordan High School Marching Band's 2009-2010 competitive show is entitled "Trapped Within". The music consists of selections of "Serenada Schizophrenia", written by Danny Elfman. I will explain in depth our show concept at camp, which is only a few precious days away. I will tell you that the music is dark and very powerful and really goes along with our concept. I am hard at work finishing the 3 movements of music for the show and it all should be posted on the website soon. I expect to have the sheet music and reference recordings for you all posted in the coming days. Warm up books will be posted there also. I will expect you to come to camp with your music and warm ups in your folders and learned. Please put them in the protective plastic sheets so the music will withstand the entire season. We will have copies made for you at school, but I expect you to bring your music with you to camp. Please use the website for your own reference. I also have plans to post drill samples on our website for you to watch and learn from. More on that later.

Band Camp begins on Monday August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8am, sharp. All our practices will involve time inside and outside, so expect to be hot and to sweat! Bring your instruments and equipment the first day, dress casually with loose fitting, light clothes and sneakers/tennis shoes. **No sandals or flip flops** of any kind will be allowed on the practice field. All shoes must be stored outside in our new shoe box. Your shoes will not be stored in your cubbies, or anywhere in the band room or surrounding rooms. Put your name in your shoes and store them in the shoebox. Speaking of shoes, we are running our first fundraiser of the year at **Omega Sports on Tuesday, July 28th, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.** This will take place at the **Renaissance Parkway location in Durham.** You will receive **10%** off your entire purchase when a **flyer** is presented. You can download the flyer on our website. During camp, we will take our lunch break from 12 noon until 1:30pm, each day. You may bring your food to the band room or go out. However, I remind you that if you plan to go out to lunch, a waiver must be signed by your parents and returned before you are permitted to leave. Speaking of which, at the end of the year, you all received our information packet, as well as the stack of necessary forms. These forms must be filled out and returned to our booster organization by the beginning of camp. We were hoping to have the forms turned in over the summer, so please fill them out and remember to bring them with you on the first day of camp or place them in the mail to our PO Box, beforehand. Similarly, your dues payments should have been mailed to the PO Box, as well. If you had chosen to pay in 3 installments, the first was due June 3<sup>rd</sup>, the second July 3<sup>rd</sup> and the last is due Aug 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please refer to our packet for the coupons to accompany your payment and mail them in. Please note that if your dues are not paid by the first day of band camp (at least the first 2 payments), **you will be sent home and will not be permitted to partake in any band camp activities.** Once again, please refer to our information packet where all this information is clearly spelled out for you and your parents.

On Friday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, there will be a leadership meeting in the Band Room at 12:00pm for all officers drum majors, captains, squad and section leaders, as well as anyone else that would like to attend. We will use this time to get your input on a few things, **the field will need to be lined**, copies made and sorted and I will need your help getting everything ready for the first day of camp. All told, the meeting should take about an hour or so and then the field lined, copies made, etc.... So please expect to stay, all are welcome!

We will be having a uniform representative here to fit everyone for band shoes and gloves on Wednesday Aug 5<sup>th</sup>. The costs and dates will be forthcoming, but last years prices were as follows: band shoes \$33, band gloves \$3 & \$5 with checks being made out to "The Band Room" (the actual name of the company).

It is very important that everyone brings a check or money order with them on the day you are fitted so your order can be completed. I will be putting together a posting specifically for this as the day gets closer, with more specifics.

I have planned a few social events for us during camp and would like for all of you to join in on the fun. We will be having our band pool party immediately following practice on the first Friday of camp, Friday Aug 7<sup>th</sup>. We have the pool at Garrett Farms reserved and life guards on duty from 5:30pm until 8:00pm (hopefully it won't rain!). Once again, this year we're going to make this a pizza/soda party. With the rising costs of everything, (except band dues!) we are going to need to charge each student \$5 for dinner and for the costs of the life guards. Hopefully we can have a round robin basketball tournament that night as well. On the second Friday of camp, Friday Aug 8<sup>th</sup>, we will hold our annual Parents' Night Performance/Show and Tell/Pot Luck at 630pm. Hopefully we can have another basketball tournament that night as well. I will check on the availability of the gym. I will post more information on this evening as it gets closer, but it's going to be the same format as last year.

This is a good time to check for equipment needs for this coming year. All mouthpieces should be in good condition (no nicks or breaks). Reeds, valve oil, and other last minute repairs should all be acquired before the start of camp. **PLAY YOUR HORN NOW TO MAKE SURE IT WORKS AND IF NOT, GET IT FIXED!** If you haven't already started to practice, I strongly suggest to everyone to begin practicing regularly. This is not an easy show, in fact, it's pretty difficult and we will begin working on the music right from the start of camp. I hope to have a new warm up book finished for all the winds, and the drumline and guard should have been rehearsing at various times during the summer. Our incredible pit has 10 students in it, 5 of which are rising freshman! Everyone's endurance will be tested from the start. It is vital to the success of our band to have full participation at every event, be that a band camp day, evening rehearsal, 3<sup>rd</sup> period class, football game or competitions. It is highly suggested that you all get yourselves in shape before the start of camp. One of the worst things that could happen would be for you to injure yourself with a muscle pull or something of the like early on, that would prevent you from participating, or that would linger. Get your mind, body and spirit ready for what lies ahead and what I will be asking of you. As I said, your endurance will be tested from the start and that will encompass all of you, all of your mind, your body, and your spirit.

Our rehearsal schedule has been posted on our website since March of last school year and our entire fall calendar has been posted since early July. If you haven't already, please get used to checking the website as often as possible (multiple times each day) utilizing this wonderful resource. Look for our new calendar which will not only have our rehearsal schedule posted, but our football games, competitions and other events, as well pertinent posts which will help ensure our success this year. **Please be aware our first public performance is before school starts. We have our first home football game on Friday Aug 21<sup>st</sup>. We will discuss particulars during camp, but it is on the calendar and we will be performing.** Please plan accordingly.

I would like to thank our booster organization, all our band parents, students and staff for their help and support. I will be calling on each and every one of you throughout this school year. It is because of you that this is such a great band program and I can't tell you how much I appreciate it and how proud I am to say I am the Jordan High School Band Director! As much as I am enjoying my summer and time off, I can't wait to get started for what promises to be an incredibly exciting season!!

Sincerely,

Mr. Weiss

