



The Mesquite High School Band Parent Organization presents

The Band Bulletin

Volume 81

August 2009

Important Dates

August 10th	First Day of School
August 22nd	8:00 am ~ Mini Band-A –Thon
August 28th	MHS @ Desert Ridge
September 11th	6:00 pm Scott Lang Clinic
September 12th	9:00 am Dr. Tim Workshop
September 18th	MHS vs, Chaparral
September 19th	9:00am Band and Drum-A-Thon
September 24th	7:30 pm MHS Band Concert
September 25th	MHS @ Corona
September 26th	PAS Fall Festival
October 2nd	MHS vs. Highland
October 3rd	Mesquite Marching Invitational
October 9th	MHS vs. Mountain View
October 10th	Gilbert Marching Invitational
October 11th-17th	Fall Break
October 24th	ASU Band Day
October 30th	MHS vs. Basha
October 31st	NAU Band Day
November 6th	MHS @ Dobson
November 7th	State Marching Festival
November 11th	Veteran's Day
November 14th	State Marching Championships
November 26th-27th	Thanksgiving Break
December 3rd	MHS Band Concert Holiday Auction/Raffle
December 12th	All-State Band Auditions
December 19th - January 3rd	Winter Break

FROM THE DIRECTORS:

We would like to welcome all band members and their families back for the 2009-2010 Mesquite High School Band season. We are looking forward to accomplishing a lot this year, while still having a great time doing it.

Please read this newsletter carefully because it contains some important information. All band students have received a band handbook on the first day of school that contains more specific class information.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact either of us. Our doors are always open and we love getting to know all the members of our band family. Let's have a great year making great music.

Mr. Andre' and Mr. Dennison

PRESIDENT 'S MESSAGE:

We are off to a GREAT year! We have a very dedicated board that has already been working hard to prepare for the upcoming 2009-2010 year! We have been fundraising this summer with carwashes and Sonic card sales. Band Camp in the cool pines of Heber, Arizona, was a success! Mr. Andre noted that the marching this year was more advanced than in previous years and he shared at the end-of-camp campfire that this had been the best band camp ever! As I mentioned at the band camp concert, we are working towards fewer, larger fundraisers this year rather than several smaller ones. In order to make these successful, we must have parent volunteers. Please remember, any fundraising we do helps to defray band expenses for the students which means less out of pocket for you (or your child)>> I ask that each parent volunteer at least three hours of their personal time this year towards helping the band program. Not only will this help to lower costs, but you will meet some wonderful parents, make new friends and network, which can be very important in today's economy. Best of all, you will spend some time with the most awesome students-your kids! What better way to spend quality time with your child than working together towards achieving a common goal and exemplifying some important values?!

Our first general membership BPO (Band Parent Organization) meeting is Tuesday, September 1, at 6:30 pm in or around the band room. I hope you will make plans to join us as we begin planning for our first major fundraiser, the Mesquite High School Marching Invitational to be held October 3rd. This will be a fun event and extremely successful—with your help!

Future BPO meetings are typically held the second Tuesday of each month, but please watch your e-mail for updated schedules or visit the band website: www.mesquitehighband.com for valuable information. Please do not hesitate to contact any board member with questions, comments or ideas. We are always available to help.

www.mesquitehighband.com

Here's to another GREAT year with the Mesquite High School bands!

Jennifer Ritter, President



2009-2010 FALL SEMESTER

SCHEDULE

Monday-Friday	Band meets "zero" hour 6-7 am
Mondays	Drumline 6-9 pm
Tuesdays	Full Marching Band 6-9pm
Thursdays	Guard 6-9 pm

Course Fees:

This year, a \$25 activity will be implemented for all concert and jazz bands. Arizona's current budget problems have forced us to raise our own money for transportation, uniform maintenance and contest fees.

UNIFORMS

Symphonic Winds and Wind Ensemble:

***Men:** School issued tuxedo and you are responsible for **black dress shoes** with **black dress socks**.

***Women:** School issued dress and you are responsible for **black dress shoes**.

Symphonic Band:

***Men:** School issued tuxedo shirt, tie, cummerbund, and pants. Your responsible for **black dress shoes** with **black socks**.

***Women:** School issued shirt, tie, cummerbund, and skirt. Your are responsible for **black dress shoes**.

Things to remember about uniforms:

- Absolutely NO jeans
- Absolutely NO tennis shoes
- Only BLACK socks~MEN!
- You are financially responsible for each piece of school issued uniforms.

MHS-BPO Board

2009 - 2010

The purpose of the Mesquite High School Band Parent Organization shall be to provide morale and financial support to the Mesquite High School Band Program, including all marching bands, concert bands, jazz bands and ensembles. To encourage parental and community support.

Directors

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FROM VICE-PRESIDENT OF TRAVEL AND VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to all those who helped with band camp this year, both chaperones who were there all week and those who came to help with the barbecue on Saturday. It was a big success and we couldn't have done it without you. The schedules on the website are from last year, so if you look there and get confused I apologize. Hopefully I will have all the information for this year up on the website by the end of August.

There are still opportunities to volunteer so if you are interested in helping the band this season, please contact me at phillipsbandparent@cox.net or 480-634-5259. We will need lots and lots of volunteers for our festival that we're hosting October 3rd and one of our BIGGEST money makers this season. We'll need people all day and people for 2-3 hour shifts throughout the day. Again please contact me if you are interested in helping out that day.



BAND YEARBOOK

The MHS Band produces a yearbook each year. The yearbook is for all band members (Concert Bands, Marching Band, and Jazz Bands). Please send or email Mr. Dennison any pictures of any concerts, football games, festivals, or just plain goofiness. Start sending pictures now so we don't miss any of the year.



Marching Band Payment Schedule:

**Last payment of \$125 is due on Sept. 18, 2009
for a TOTAL of \$675
per student for Marching Band.**

If you have any questions regarding how much you still owe or to make payment arrangements, please contact Rhonda Manning, Treasurer.

All payments must be received on or before the deadlines.

Make checks out to MHS BPO.

Tax Credit payments make out to Gilbert Public Schools.

Fundraising Flash

Our fundraising ventures started the beginning of June with multiple car washes throughout the month. The monies earned will go toward the cost of t-shirts for each of the sections. We earned \$904.00!

Students also sold Sonic cards for a fundraising venture over the summer. We had the opportunity to sell \$5.00 Sonic cards and keep 100% of the profits. Monies and unsold cards are still being collected. So far, we have \$325.00.

The next major fundraising event will be the Mesquite High School Marching Invitational. This will be a great opportunity to raise a lot of money. We plan on having multiple food and beverage vendors. We have scheduled Texas Road House, Frye Bread/Mexican Food, Kettle Korn and Jamba Juice. We also plan on selling programs for the event. We're also hoping to have some Banner Sponsorships. These will be hung on the fences in the spectator section of the football field.

Currently, we are in the process of a mass mailing to businesses around the east valley requesting sponsorships. These sponsorships will be either Monetary Donations, Banner Sponsorships, Program Sponsorships, Product Donations or Website Sponsorships.

We are trying to get a Motorcycle Poker Run organized and executed in the spring.

- Rick and Darlene Horner, VP's of Fundraising



Band Camp is always a high point of a marching season, but this year's will always stick out as being one of the better camps I attended while in marching band. It was a different experience for me for obvious reasons of holding a different position, but I was able to see the larger picture and get a glimpse of everyone's progress which I found highly rewarding.

Right at the beginning of camp we could all feel that there was something a little different about this camp, and this group of students, something better. At first no one could pinpoint exactly what was different, but by then end of the week it was obvious. There was minimal drama, many happy attitudes, and a whole lot of polka! Above all, Mesquite Marching Band has 120 dedicated, hardworking students and plenty of highly talented staff. And this is the equation that will result in an amazing season!

The music came very quickly to each of the sections, and the first experience of putting the winds with the battery and pit was simply awe inspiring. It was apparent from that moment that we should all be getting excited because we were going to be able to achieve greatness by the end of the season. We were able to perform the whole show at the Saturday performance which has not happened in a long time, and the guard was able to do the work for part one which was a huge accomplishment after all their hard work!

Camp was full of funny skits, many "bonding experiences" and the building of lifelong friendships! It was just the start of an amazing season, and we are all so excited to see where we will be able to go with how far we have come already!

-Erika Steinacker, Head Drum Major

From the Treasurers:

Tax Credit Contribution News:

To help pay for your student's band fees, you can contribute up to \$400 per year as a married couple or \$200 per year as a single person, to your student's band account. Also, family members and friends can contribute if they file an Arizona State Tax Return. To make a tax credit contribution, fill out the tax credit form (on the website) indicating that you want the contribution applied to the MHS Band Program (with your student's name), make your check payable to Gilbert Unified School District, and mail it to **MHSBPO, PMB #125, 835 W. Warner Rd. Suite 101, Gilbert, AZ 85233-7261** or **drop it off in the Band Room Payment Drawer**. We will be sure it is applied to your student's account and sent to the school district. You will then receive a receipt from the school district to be used when filing your Arizona state tax return. You can also make your tax credit contributions by credit card on line at <http://www.gilbert.k12.az.us/taxcredit.html>. If you do it on line, please be sure to indicate that it goes toward the MHS Band Program (with your students name) and **send a copy of your confirmation to the address above or drop it in the Band Room Drawer** so it gets applied appropriately to your student's account.

You can use Visa or Mastercard to pay your Band Fees. There is an additional 3% per payment fee that will be added to your account, to cover the processing cost we are being charged. You can use your credit card to pay online. If you wish to pay online, you must receive your statements electronically.

Any questions regarding your students account or payment information, contact :



Rhonda Manning, Treasurer

Rhonda.manning@roofusa.com

480-220-8886

* Fry's Cards *

It's **EASY** to participate in this "free money" fundraiser!!! Simply contact Kim Adamson at a2zadamson@cox.net to purchase a \$5 Fry's Card which is linked to your student's band account. Reload money on it each time you shop at Fry's. You can do this IN LINE prior to scanning your groceries or at the Customer Service counter. Then use the card to pay for your groceries. A percentage of what you spend with it goes into your student's account twice a year, in March and in September. These are great to get for extended family and neighbors, too! Their cards will be linked to your student's account. More cards that are in use, more FREE \$\$\$ for your student.

Last year, September 08-January 09, MHS Band families spent \$85,839.88 in groceries and gas at Fry's. We earned 6% on all purchases and received a check for \$5,150.39 to be distributed to participating student's accounts. This year, February 09-July 09, we spent \$71,748.68 in purchases at Fry's. We will receive a check in September for \$3,587.43 to be distributed to individual accounts. Because we didn't reach the \$75,000 level we will only earn 5%.

I would encourage **ALL** band parents to participate in this FREE fundraising opportunity if you shop at Fry's. You purchase a \$5 Fry's Gift Card from the BPO for \$5 and continue to reload it all year. An extra opportunity from Fry's is to use your Gift Card to purchase Fuel at Fry's Fuel Stations. The closest location is Arizona Avenue and Baseline Road. You can reload your Gift Card at the Customer Service Booth. Also, you can purchase other Retail Gift Cards with your Fry's Gift Card, such as, Target, Best Buy, iTunes.

Contact Kim if you have any questions about this program, or to purchase Fry's Gift Cards.

-Kim Adamson, Assistant Treasurer

a2zadamson@cox.net

602-614-1975

IT'S TIME FOR BAND!



Mesquite High School
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