

DIRECTORS NOTES

*The Oswego High School Bands * Wind Ensemble * Symphonic Band * Concert Band * Jazz Ensembles * Marching Buccaneers*

May 2014

The Finish Line

It doesn't seem that long ago we were welcoming our freshman on the first day of school, attending Area-All State or boarding buses to Philadelphia; but now the end of the school year is fast approaching. There is still much to accomplish and of course plenty of beautiful music to create together. This time of year is very busy for all of us with concerts, NYSSMA, AP exams, finals, prom, and working afterschool. It is also a very emotional time. It is a time of excitement for the summer break, and a time of sadness as we say goodbye to our graduating seniors. I feel sad that we are losing our seniors as they are graduating, but I know all of them will go on to do great things in life. They have been an integral part of our family for so long! Congratulations to all of the seniors who are graduating this year! Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication during your time here at OHS. We have learned a lot from you and we hope that you not



only enjoyed your time here in the music program but that you learned a little something about life from us! The picture above was taken on 100 days senior ceremony. Pictured right to left are: Row 1-Emily King, Nina Alcasid, Tory Welsch, Lexie DeSacia. Row 2-Cassie Hondro, Emily Mills, Anne Reynolds, Laurelann Easton, Row 3- Tyler Benjamin, Brittany Reed, Alex Carl, Molly Malone, Kennedy Singletary, Row 4- Cody Cheeley, Abigail Allen, Jon Buske, Mike Farden, Justin Abbott, Row 5- Logan Krass, Dave Dorval, Mike Sheffield, Conor Henrie, Tom Godfrey, and Kyle McCauley.

Evening of Big Band Jazz-Eric Marienthal

On Friday May 23rd at 7:00 pm the Jazz Bands with the help of the Oswego City School District and the Oswego High School Band Parents Association, will host a concert featuring Eric Marienthal. He is an outstanding performer and an outstanding advocate for music education and jazz education. The Jazz A & B bands will spend two days rehearsing with Eric. He will work with them Thursday night and then the students will come back on **Friday morning at 11:00 am to do an hour long master class with him. All music students are invited to both the concert and the workshop.** It is an opportunity to have the chance to interact with a world class musician and have his attention solely on our students. As for the concert it will be a real treat. The concert will open with the Middle School Jazz Band (or Jazz Armada) directed by Mr. James Peer and Mr. Scott Ciesla. We hope to see you at the concert on Friday!

OHS Bands Seniors' Concert

The Final concert of the year is coming up quickly! **Our last concert is Friday May 30th at 7:30 pm in the Robinson-Faust Theatre!** At this concert all three bands will be performing and at the end we will do two combined pieces that are designed to honor our graduating seniors. This is a special evening where we get to celebrate all of the accomplishments of our outstanding musicians. We will also be presenting several awards and scholarships including the John Phillip Sousa Band awards, The Mary Jane Buske Scholarship, The Myron Jim Harbison Scholarship, and The Edward S. Lisk Medal of Distinction! We truly hope that you join us for an outstanding evening of music!

Pride in Excellence

Help US help an OHS Band member

May 30, 2014 will mark the third annual presentation of the Edward S. Lisk **“Medal of Distinction” Award and Scholarship**. The beautiful crystal pendant and \$1000 scholarship will be given to a graduating senior band member who has made significant contributions to the Oswego Bands during his/her high school career.

The scholarship is made possible through the generous donations of a caring community as well as OHS Bands alumni across the country. There is no huge fundraising company asking for your help. In fact, it's just me. That allows for 100% of your donation to be applied to the Medal of Distinction fund. Providing this award and scholarship is our way of encouraging the highest standards of excellence. If you can contribute any amount – thank you! If a donation isn't possible, we still offer our thanks to you for all of the other forms of support that you've provided in the past. We are all connected – students, parents and staff - by this wonderful band program and the great memories it's provided all of us.

With gratitude,

Bill Palange

“Medal of Distinction” Foundation

To Contribute and sustain the Award & Scholarship program

On the Internet:

Log on to the Oswego High School Bands website <http://oswegobands.org/index.html>

Click “DONATE” on left side of screen.

PayPal AND All major credit cards are accepted on this secure site.

Through the mail:

We will be happy to accept a check or money order.

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: OHS Band Parents Assoc.

NOTE ON CHECK: “Medal of Distinction” Scholarship

MAIL TO: The “Medal of Distinction” Foundation,
C/o Mr. William Palange, 304 East 9th Street, Oswego, NY 13126

Upcoming Oswego High School Band Events

Friday, May 23 *Evening of Big Band Jazz*, Faust Theatre, 7:00 pm
Featuring Los Angeles based Saxophonist Eric Marienthal (www.ericmarienthal.com)

Friday, May 30 *Band Seniors Concert*, OHS Bands Concert Faust Theatre, 7:30 PM

Monday June 9 *Marching Band Orientation*, Faust Theatre 7:00 PM

Tuesday, June 10 *Orchestra Seniors Concert*, OHS Orchestras Concert Faust Theatre, 7:30 PM

Saturday, June 28 *Commencement, Class of 2014 WIND ENSEMBLE/ORCHESTRA Performs*,
SUNY Oswego, 10AM

Sunday, July 6 *4th of July Day Parade*, Marching Buccaneers, City of Oswego 1PM

Sunday July 6 *4th of July Celebration*, Jazz Ensemble A Breitbeck Park 6:30 PM

August 4-8 *Marching Band Camp*, Marching Buccaneers, Oswego High School, 12-9 PM

2014-2015 *Marching Buccaneers*

This will be 36th year of the Pageant of Champions held here in the Oswego City School District. The Pageant will be on September 20th on Joe Wilbur Field! This is the time of year where we start putting together the 2014-2015 Marching Buccaneers. While the show design has been in progress for several months, the most important element of our season has not yet been assembled; that would be our team! We need all of you to participate! There are so many benefits to being in the marching band. Besides all of the friends you will make and trips we will take to compete, you will become a better performer and musician. You will learn discipline, responsibility, dedication, pride, and most importantly how to make a difference as one person in a large group. The biggest benefit of the marching band is that you excel faster than your classmates and it gives you an upper hand at being accepted in the top ensembles here at Oswego High School.



We have two open rehearsals for students interested in the Color Guard for 2014. Just a small reminder, only students who don't play band instruments are eligible to join the color guard! The Open Rehearsal days are Thursday May 5/29, 5/29, and Tuesday 6/3 from 6:30-8:30 pm in the New Gym at the High School. Please encourage all of your friends to attend. Flyers will be posted around schools and information is being sent home to students as well.

I have been going down to the middle school and talking with students about joining the marching band. I have been also talking to all of the high school students as well trying to recruit new members. The best feature of the marching band is that every member is important. Everyone is a starter! There are no bench players in the marching band. This is one of the most unique sports you will come across in your high school careers. If you know anyone who is interested, please have them contact me. Feel free to email, stop by the OHS band room, or yell frantically about wanting to join the marching band! One last note about joining the marching band--**I have too many students tell me that they should have done marching band sooner and that is their biggest regret! Don't put yourself in that situation, come and see what we are all about! Marching Band Orientation is June 9th at 7:00pm** in the Faust Theatre in the high school. We will unveil the new show, our trip plans, and what great things you can expect from the marching band in 2014.

Finally, the schedule for 4th of July rehearsals are 6/17, 6/18, 6/19, 6/24, 6/25, 6/26 from 6:30-8:30 pm at the High School. The Fourth of July Parade is on July 6th at 1:00 pm. Report time on July 7th to the high school will be 11:00 am. I really hope you choose to a part of the 2014 Marching Buccaneers. It's time we start to really show people why we are one of the best programs in the country and to do that we need as many students as possible in the marching band!

Frequently Asked Marching Band Questions

Q: “We vacation in the summer and will not be here for some rehearsals!”

A: Most of our families vacation at some time during the summer. It is not unusual for students to miss a few rehearsals while they are on vacation with their families. We ask that when students are in town, they attend rehearsal; just let us know when you will be away. The only week we would like everyone here is Band Camp-August 4-8th.

Q: “Can I still maintain excellent grades in school.”

A: We want you to do this, too! We feel your first priority must be to your family, second your school work and then to the band (or any activity like ours!) The Marching Band has a season similar to a fall sport. We have found that students participating in Marching Band actually achieved BETTER GRADES DURING MARCHING BAND SEASON than at other times during the year. Students involved in the marching band program are very responsible people who realize the importance of their studies!

Q: “There’s no way I can memorize music, march and play my instrument at the same time!”

A: No one comes into marching band knowing how to do this their first year, we will show you how!! We have made believers out of every single person who said “...but I can’t do THAT! We have **never had** a student fail in either one of these areas.

Q: “I’m just not really sure... (there are so many new things next year)...”

A: If you are unsure, I strongly urge you to jump in and try. If, after trying for a season you find that you really enjoyed being a part of the Marching Buccaneers, you’ve done yourself a HUGE favor by getting involved in an activity that you really enjoy. All of us are a little bit unsure when we venture into anything new. Being a part of the band you will be on a team that has no substitutes...everyone participates at all times. It will be a very rewarding experience for you and you will make friendships that last a lifetime.

Q: “I am worried about the fundraising that is involved with the trip this year.”

A: We take a trip every year. The trips are one of the more memorable experiences you will have in marching band. We have several fundraisers planned that will allow you to raise the money necessary for this trip. This year we are even running a concession stand at the NBT Stadium during events throughout the year. You parents and relatives can work for a few hours have a good time, and make some money for your trip!

Do You Need Marching Band Shoes???

If you need marching band shoes they will be available to try on and order at Orientation. The cost is 39.95 a pair. They also double as great concert dress shoes! You can pay in Cash or Checks can be made payable to OHS Band Parents Association. They will arrive in time for the 4th of July Parade if they are ordered at Orientation. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Jennifer Dowdle (jeganrn@hotmail.com), or Mr. Ciesla (sciesla@oswego.org).