

2008-2009 Appling Band Newsletter #1

September 30, 2008

Hello! It is hard to believe that we have already been in school seven weeks. The band has been very busy so far. The sixth grade band has learned how to put instruments together, produce good sounds, and has learned six notes. The seventh and eighth grade bands are finishing (7th) or starting (8th) playing tests with exercises out of their book to play for a grade. All groups will be preparing for the holiday concert Dec. 16.

Please encourage your child to keep up with practice records and have them signed and returned weekly. I have included one in this newsletter and students can also pick them up weekly in class. The goal is to practice at least 100 minutes a week, but more is always better. These are part of their grade! Practice makes perfect! Thirty minutes a day is a good goal to set, but this does not have to necessarily be all at once. For example, one could practice 15 minutes before dinner and then another 15 minutes before he went to bed. Please try to get your child in a routine where they have a set time and place to practice daily. If they miss a day, try to make it up the next day. Also, remember that it is the quality of practice and not always the quantity. If students need supplemental materials, there are always fun books at the music stores (Ex. Disney, movie hits, top 40 radio, etc... and some with accompaniment cds). Students also need to be getting a head start on All-West TN Band audition music and work on scales. The All-West music is located as a midi-file on the Appling band web site for students to listen to. Remember that we have a practice record minute contest at the end of each semester where we will give the student with the most minutes a \$50 Amro gift certificate.

The sixth grade band will have its very first concert next Tuesday night October 7. They have worked so hard and I'm looking forward to a great show. Thank you in advance to all of you who will help with equipment, set-up, and with ticket sales. Memos with details about the concert have been sent home and will also be linked to our web site. We are off to a great start!

The marching band has been quite busy and are doing very well. They have been rehearsing since the last week of August and have rehearsed on Mondays and Wednesdays. They performed the national anthem at the Arlington High School marching competition and did very well. We are preparing a piece of music called "Patriotic Spectacular" for the University of Memphis Homecoming parade on October 24 and the Memphis Veteran's Day parade on November 11th also plan to perform that song along with the fight song and cheers at our annual PTSA Spaghetti dinner on October 23. We will also perform in several Christmas parades – Collierville – December 5 and Bartlett – Dec. 6. We will also be measuring for uniforms soon. A big thank you to the band parents that have been working at rehearsals and with concessions and to those that will be helping with uniforms. Also a big thank you to Kristy Scarbrough for doing a wonderful job with our flag corps. We have had a lot of Appling band alumni back to help, but if any parent is available after school on Mondays and

Wednesdays and would like to volunteer to help out with marching band, please let me know. Extra sets of eyes are always helpful.

The band had its first fund raiser that kicked off at the end of August - the Best Book in Town coupon books. The band sells these every year and is always very successful. We are tying up all of our loose ends and distributed prizes. This money will go toward the general account to help pay for music, school instruments, and set up a fund for more uniforms. We received an extension on selling the books and will have a table setup at open house. We have also sold them in front of Schnucks grocery store for the past two Sundays and are trying to set up at Kroger and/or Wal-mart (e-mails will follow). We will give out prize books and gift card prizes very soon.

The Appling Band had a Chic-Fil-A spirit night for the first time on September 23. The band will plan to have this on the fourth Tuesday of every month – the next one is scheduled for October 28. The band will receive 20% of all sales when you say “Appling Band” at the register.

Our next big fund raiser will be the band sponsored dance on Oct. 31st. This is always a big hit with students in that it is the Halloween costume dance and the students enjoy dressing up. A lot of parents have volunteered on the band handbook form that they would be interested in helping out and we will be contacting you through e-mail soon. We will need help with ticket sales, monitoring students, concession sales, and candy donations for door prizes. If you can donate any canned or bottled drinks or candy or have connections with businesses to get prizes, please let me know as soon as possible. We may again raffle off a Wii or something similar at the dance and will start selling raffle tickets during homeroom after fall break. Start the buzz about this and let's use this to help make some money for the band. We will discuss this at the **next booster meeting on October 9.**

The band offers ISA fund raiser projects to help pay for anything band related. We have already had the BBQ sale for Labor Day and will have the poinsettia sale in time for the holidays and due at the end of October (info to go home soon). ISA money can be used for Solo and Ensemble Festival extra events, All-West audition fees (\$7 – this is due 10/31), Spring trip to St. Louis (for honor and jazz bands and approximately \$250-\$300), honor bands (Memphis area, UT-Martin, or All-West- prices vary), jackets and sweatshirts, or money can even be taken out for private lessons. If a student does not use all the money in his/her ISA before the end of the school year and he is a 6th or 7th grader, then it will transfer over to the next year. If a student is an 8th grader and does not use all of the money in the ISA, then that money will be transferred to the general band account. Money will not be returned to the student. Kroger cards are an ongoing ISA project and many kids get lots of money into their ISA through this. For those of you that don't know, Kroger cards can be used just like cash to buy groceries. You can use these for your family or let your friends and neighbors know that you have access to them. My family up in Cincinnati, OH is using their gift cards to help support the Appling Band scholarship fund – What a great way for your grandparents, aunts/uncles, etc.... to help support your child's ISA!!

You buy the card for \$5 to activate it and then reload it with money at Customer Service or before you scan your groceries and for every \$100 used, your ISA will be credited \$5. Bring in money for this designated "Kroger Card" and we will get your child a card.

Jacket and Sweatshirt orders were turned in last Friday, September 26 and should be here by mid- October. We may place another order in November in time for Christmas if there is more interest. T-shirts are here and we have ordered some extras if parents/siblings are interested in purchasing them for \$10 each. T-shirts are part of band dues. We are still trying to collect forms and fees from some students. Students must have turned in all items before receiving a shirt – band handbook form, health form, \$75 band dues, 4 self-addressed stamped envelopes, instrument contract/rental money for those using school instruments, and marching band permission forms and fees for those in marching band. Extra copies of forms should be on the long table in the band room.

I encourage your child to check into private lessons. It is so helpful and encouraging to work one on one with a professional that specializes in your instrument. There are many places available including Bartlett Music Academy, Saint Fishy's Music Stand, University of Memphis, local churches, etc..... The Bartlett Music Academy is offering a scholarship for lessons for the winner of an essay contest with the topic "What kind of impact does learning a musical instrument have on test scores? - due November 30.

Please check the web site for updates, copies of forms and permission slips, and pictures of upcoming events - <http://www.applingband.org> . If you have any pictures of band events that you would like to submit, please do so. I'm sure I will see many 6th grade parents with cameras at the concert and I would love to have copies of the pictures. The students love to see themselves on the web site. Also, use this site to communicate with me and other band boosters. Thank you to Mrs. Melody Thomas for working on the web site this year. Thank you also to Bill Buchanan (our band booster president) and Mrs. Jennifer Meier (band booster treasurer) for helping in so many ways already this year.

Thank you for allowing me to work with your children. We are off to a wonderful start and I am looking forward to a great year. Please feel free to call or e-mail me with any questions: 373-1410 or a1sanders@scsk12.org. I hope to see all of you at the **next band booster meeting on October 9.**

Mrs. Angela Sanders

Here is a copy of the practice record that should be turned in weekly: