



Muscle Shoals High School Band Boosters

News & Notes



July 2006

From the Director - Pat Stegall

Here We Go, Again! Mark Time Hut, One Two Ready Go! Those words mark the beginning of the first day of band Camp for 2006. We are off and marching to a new beat...putting the feet down on the beat, moving the hands and fingers to play the notes, twirling the batons and spinning flags. It is always an exciting time of the year, a new beginning with all of the hopes and promise of another great year for the Muscle Shoals Band program.

“Theme Park Sketches” is the premise for this years’ show. We are playing Windsprints Persistence by Richard Saucedo. **Come see the first edition of the Trojan Band in our exhibition on Thursday night August 30, 2006 at 7:30 pm on the grass practice field.** We will have a great time performing for you, and then have ice cream! **The first Band Booster meeting is Tuesday, August 1 at 7: 00 pm.** We are gonna be real busy this fall, so come join in the fun and support your band.

PS

From the President - Darlene Austin

I just wanted to take a minute to welcome all of the “seasoned” band parents back and to encourage all of our new parents to get involved with the band boosters! Our first meeting of the year is coming up on **August 1 at 7:00 pm** in the band room. You do not want to miss this meeting!! We will be planning our strategies for the year and getting ready to kick things off with a bang! If you are not sure what needs to be done, make yourself available and we will put you to work. See you on Tuesday!!

Pit Dad Report - Scott Hester

Pit Dads meet every Thursday night at 5:00 p.m. at Maxwell’s Restaurant to eat and then go to the prop room at 6:00 p.m. to work on that week’s projects. We have the preliminary prop designs from Mr. Stegall, a couple of concession stand projects, and some work to do on the equipment carts. Join us this week and help this become another great year for your band student.

Dates to Remember

August 1 Band Booster Meeting 7:00 p.m.
August 30 Band Exhibition 7:30 p.m.
September 1 Football Game (Colbert Cty)
September 5 Band Booster Meeting

Those Red Shirts

Becoming a part of any organization can be a bit intimidating. When joining the band boosters several years ago, we knew no one - we were new to the school and the community. We walked into a room full of strangers - who soon became friends.

We were quickly made welcome by the identifiable common bond- the Band Booster “Red Shirt.”

I like red, it’s a good color for me! I was eager to wear my shirt - I showed up for the first ball game in my new shirt and even though I saw several others just like mine, there were a few who were different - not just quite the same shade of red. I, at first, questioned the laundry skills of those women. Some weren’t too faded, but a few were well on their way to a less than flattering shade of... well... *pink!*

That’s when I realized the distinction- the classification of these people within this group - I was definitely a “newby.” I was a freshman parent in my dark red shirt. Each successive year brought a less definable shade of red. The color shift was not the result of poor laundry judgment, it was the result of multiple wearing and washing of this hallowed uniform- sometimes in the same week. There were of course Friday night games to work in the concession stand or as a Pit Dad on the field. There were those Tuesday night JV games, band booster’s meetings, of course the marching

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competitions when the shirt doubled as a pajama top. There were fund raising events- selling pumpkins and mums. There were district and state competitions that needed the shirt.

In that shirt, we could sell popcorn, paint a flat, hold a banner, or hug a kid. We could yell for our kids with the shirt on and our kids loved to see those shirts and hear those yells. The group was easily spotted in our own football stadium, as well as in the Georgia Dome.

Those multi-shaded shirts were not only the dress code on Friday nights, but were a bond- a bond of friendships and a bond of family. That bond continues even after your child graduates. Many a shirt has returned just to “help out” even when they don’t have a kid in the band.

The shirts, I figured out, weren’t of poor quality in dye or design. The color shift was probably more from work than from washing. The more a person poured of themselves into the program, the more the color poured out. The sweat and tears both washed many a shirt and faded some of the color, but did nothing to diminish the bond.

The shirts this year will be worn by new faces who will have the same questions about the laundry skills of the wearers of the “older” shirts. But, they will soon understand that like your favorite pair of jeans or tennis shoes that get more comfortable as you wear them, so the more the shirt is worked in, the more paint that is on it, the more Pepsi products or cheese dip that is on it, the more sweat, the more blood, and yes the more tears it has on it, the more comfortable it becomes.

By the way, what color is your shirt?

By - Susan Bonee (Second Time Band Parent - Proud wearer of a “less than red” shirt!)

Muscle Shoals High School Band Boosters Mission

The mission of MSHS Band Boosters is to be an advocate for the value of music education and provide volunteer and financial support for students and directors in the band program.

Our values are:

Youth Development

Inclusiveness

Artistry



Muscle Shoals High School
Band Boosters
1900 Avalon Ave.
Muscle Shoals, AL 35661

**Band Booster
Meeting
August 1, 2006
7:00 p.m.**