

Lloyd C. Bird Skyhawk Band

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www.lcbirdband.org

July 16, 2014

Dear Skyhawk Band Member and Family,

We hope that this letter finds you enjoying your much deserved summer vacation. We are looking forward to what will be an incredible year with an incredible group of students and parents. We are very excited about this upcoming school year, and have lots of ideas and plans that we cannot wait to share with you all. Band truly is a family of families working together for a common goal: expressive musicianship. Our leadership family has been working hard all summer, and we are ready to get started in a new year. Our staff is excited and ready to work hard to make this year successful.

We would like to congratulate and introduce the following students as leadership of the 2014-15 school year:

Drum Majors Tony Marant and Lauren Riley

Field Commander: Quentin Hynst

Color Guard Captain: Sara Flores

Drum Captain: Emily Alonso

BAND COUNCIL OFFICERS:

President Benda Ngandu

Vice President Niko Ambrose

Personnel Officer Tyler Coleman

Historian Ally Horkey

Music Officer open

WOODWIND CAPTAINS: Melvyn Crutchfield and Precious Rowe

BRASS CAPTAINS: Niko Ambrose and Anthony Smith

FALL FIELD SHOW:

Our fall show is based off of Carolina Crown's 2013 Championship Show $E=MC^2$. We will be using a different theme but the music will be the same. It is a very exciting and fun-filled show that will keep the band moving and grooving all season!

All students having completed registration/commitment forms are being written into this show, and will be **expected** to keep the commitment you made. **Please be prepared to pay the second installment of the band fees by the end of the first week of band camp.**

DONATIONS

We are always in need of instruments for the band program. If you have an instrument in your attic or sitting around that you are willing to donate, we will provide you with a letter for your taxes so that you can write the donation off as an official donation. Please email me if you are interested.

PERCUSSION CAMP/COLORGUARD CAMP

Percussion/Front Ensemble/Colorguard Camp will be July 28-August 1 from 8:30am-4pm. Percussion/guard students must bring a bagged lunch to all practices, as they will not be allowed to leave campus during lunch. Percussion camp is mandatory for all percussionists (both Front Ensemble and Drumline). Please make sure that you dress appropriately for marching both inside and outside during these camp days. All front ensemble students will receive their music the first day of Percussion Camp.

LOCKER ASSIGNMENTS

Locker assignments will be given before or after the summer evening rehearsals. Locker rental fees will be \$5 for the year. The larger lockers can be rented for \$10 a person and are for large instruments only.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

Please check the band website frequently for important updates. www.lcbirdband.org You will find valuable information about upcoming events and changes as they come. More importantly, once school starts please check edline for calendars and other pertinent information that is passed out in your son/daughter's class.

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising is a vital and necessary tool for the proper running of a band program. Without fundraising, we would have to significantly increase our band camp fees in order to run our program. We raise money for the SMB as well as the concert programs so that they can have music, instruments, and other equipment necessary to run the program. Students will be expected to participate in any/all fundraisers that are held throughout the school year. The first fundraiser we will do will begin August 11th (the first day of band camp). We will be selling coupon books for \$20, and each student will be expected to sell 5 books (we will receive \$10 per book as a profit). By selling 5 books, your family will receive 1 free book as a reward. This fundraiser will gross over \$3000 if each student sells at least 5 books. Families who do not wish to participate in this fundraiser are more than welcome to make a \$50 donation or solicit donations instead of selling these books. Stay tuned for more information!

Our second MAJOR fundraiser of the year, Tag Day, is Saturday, September 6, 2014. This is the biggest fundraiser of the school year, and all students, both marching and concert, will be expected to participate. We will need many parents to help out with this fundraiser; as each group that goes out needs to have an adult driver to take them around the county. This is a great way to get involved with your child and with the Skyhawk Band Program. Please mark this on your calendars now!

FRESHMAN CAMP AND FRESHMAN PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT

Freshman camp will be held August 7 from noon until 8pm, and August 8 from 8am until 3pm. **COLORGUARD, DRUMLINE AND FRONT ENSEMBLE WILL ALSO BE EXPECTED TO REHEARSE DURING FRESHMAN CAMP.** On Friday August 8, students should bring a bagged lunch as they will not be allowed to leave campus during camp. Students must also bring their instrument, **TENNIS SHOES with shoelaces that can be tied (no slip ons, sperrys, toms, skater shoes, etc.)**, sunscreen, pencil, music, a hat (to be worn outside the building only), and plenty of bottled water. All leadership is required to assist with this camp. On Thursday August 7, we will provide dinner from 5-6pm for the freshmen and leadership students involved. In addition, Thursday August 7 will be the freshman parent dinner and orientation from 6-8pm in the large commons. The Band Boosters will be providing dinner for all freshmen parents, and will then give you vital information that will help you get acquainted with the various aspects of the program. Information will include marching band competition information, an explanation of what will happen during band camp, and information on how you can get involved and participate if you choose to do so.

EVENING PRACTICES

An evening practice will be held August 7 from 6pm-8pm. This practice is a part of band camp and is required...students may not miss for work...please mark this on your calendar. In the event your family will be out of town, please notify me ASAP so we can get you caught up on what you will be missing. We will check out school instruments to use for the year...please arrive early so that we may check out an instrument to you before rehearsal begins at 6pm.

BAND CAMP

Band camp begins August 11 and will run from 8am-3pm for the entire band for the first week. The first day we will concentrate mainly on music in the afternoon, but the morning will include marching. Tuesday, August 12 we will begin with marching in the morning, followed by drill setting, lunch, sectional music rehearsals, and a drill setting session in the afternoon. After our lunch break, we will work inside on sectionals so that you are out of the sun during some of the hottest hours of the day. Before the end of practice each day, we will end up back out on the marching band field, rehearsing drill and reinforcing what we have learned that day (as long as weather permits). **MANDATORY EQUIPMENT FOR BAND CAMP INCLUDES BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO: TENNIS SHOES (every day of both weeks of camp and FRESHMEN CAMP), LARGE insulated water bottle with student's name on it, sunscreen, drill t-shirt (to be explained during the first week of band camp!...please have a plain white t-shirt ready to go), pencil, music, instrument, HAT (ALL STUDENTS SHOULD BRING A HAT AND SUNGLASSES TO PROTECT THEM FROM THE SUN), and a positive attitude.** Students will not be allowed to leave school premises at any point in time during band camp hours.

The second week of camp begins August 18 and runs from 7:30am-4pm. On Friday August 22 we will take pictures in the morning, and will finish by 12 noon to be out of the way of the Chesterfield County Fair. **ATTENDANCE AT CAMP IS MANDATORY, AS MATERIAL TAUGHT/LEARNED WILL NOT BE RE-TAUGHT AT A LATER TIME. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU LET ME KNOW OF ANY SCHEDULING ISSUES IMMEDIATELY AS THIS MAY AFFECT YOUR SON/DAUGHTER'S ABILITY TO PARTICIPATE.**

For rookies, band camp may sound very intimidating, but the two weeks are designed to help you transition from middle school band to high school band as smoothly as possible. Your upperclassmen leadership is there to help you in any way possible. Realize that if you don't ask, we won't know you have questions. This is such an exciting time and our goal is to make this a positive experience for all students involved. For returners, I ask that you remember that our goal is to strive for the highest with everything that we do this year!

BAND CAMP FOOD

Students should eat a breakfast each morning consisting of foods that will not be greasy or too heavy. It is also a suggestion that students avoid drinking milk in the morning with cereal, as we have found that this sometimes can make the students sick. One suggestion of a good band camp breakfast is hot oatmeal or a bagel, and fruit.

Students will not be allowed to leave campus for lunch, therefore the first week of camp students will need to bring a bag lunch. Friday August 15 and Monday-Thursday during the second full (Aug 18-21) week of band camp, students have the option of purchasing five meals that will be bought by the band parents and brought to school. Meals will include a sandwich, snack, and drink. They can be purchased for \$5 per day for a total of five days. Anyone interested in participating must bring a check made out to LC Bird Band Boosters on Monday, August 11 (the first day of the first week of camp). We will not take orders for lunches after Wednesday August 13th. Anyone not interested in purchasing meals can bring a bag lunch during the second week of camp. **Forms will be posted on www.lcbirdband.org the first week of August.**

BAND CAMP WATER

Much of our band camp will take place outside. Students will be given water breaks throughout the day (in extreme heat we will go inside) so they can hydrate themselves properly. With a band of over 70 students and only 3 water fountains close to our practice field, we cannot afford to lose time waiting for students to get through a water fountain line. In addition, many quick "grab a few sips and go" water breaks will be given, and students who do not have water will not have the time to go inside. Therefore, water bottles will be considered a **MANDATORY** and necessary item for camp. Please make sure that every day your son/daughter brings this extremely important item. (Insulated half gallon bottles are the best, and will keep the water cool all day. You can purchase these for a pretty low cost at Wal-mart). Please make sure that the water bottle has your son/daughter's name on it. A suggestion also would be to have the students bring Gatorade as well to help them hydrate during lunch. **No Gatorade, fruit juices, or soft drinks will be allowed outside on the marching band field so that we can avoid spills that will attract bees.**

MARCHING BAND SHOES

With the new uniforms we will be wearing this year, we want to make sure that the students look their absolute best and that they are **COMPLETELY** uniform. Please double-check now to make sure that your son/daughter has not lost or misplaced their band shoes and that they have the correct shoes (named Styleplus). **ALL BAND STUDENTS MUST have these band shoes**, and they are provided by Timberlake Specialties for \$38. Families who wish to purchase them from a different company may do so, but you will most likely end up paying more for them once you include the shipping cost. This policy includes new students as well as old students. Students **MAY NOT AT ANY TIME** purchase black tennis shoes or use shoes from previous years that are not the specific shoes offered by Timberlake Specialties. Jim Timberlake will come to Bird to fit students for shoes on Monday Aug 11 at 12:00 pm. We have many "lost" band shoes that are looking for their old homes or new homes. These will be given out on a first-come first serve basis on August 7.

Shoes take a while to come in once ordered. Students who do not have their correct shoes will not be allowed to perform. In order for your son/daughter to have their shoes in time for the first football game, they must order their shoes by no later than Wednesday August 13, 2014. We will collect forms until that date here at school. After August 13th, shoe order forms must be mailed to:

Timberlake Specialties
Zero East 4th Street, Suite 45
Richmond, VA 23224

BAND PARENT PREVIEW NIGHT AND POTLUCK DINNER

On Thursday August 21 we will have a parent preview night and potluck dinner. It will start at 7pm out on the marching band practice field. We ask that each family bring the following items in portions that are enough for your entire family plus five other people: Senior and Junior families: a main entrée and a side bread. Sophomore Families with the last names letters A-M: a main entrée and a bread. Sophomore families with the last names letters N-Z and all Freshmen Families: a side dish and a dessert.

FLYING SQUIRRELS GAME

The call time for the Flying Squirrels Game is 4pm on Friday August 29th. We will have three rehearsals that week (Monday, Tuesday and Thursday August 26th, 27th, and 29th) from 8am-noon to prepare for this performance as well as maintain information taught during band camp. Students will be required to wear their band t-shirt, khaki or jean shorts, and tennis shoes. We will depart Bird High School promptly at 4:30pm and our performance starts at 6:15. Attached is a ticket order form if you would like to attend this game. After the game, they will be shooting off fireworks and then we will immediately leave. Return time is estimated at 11pm.

DRESS CODE

During band camp, students are expected to dress in school-appropriate clothing which means: finger-tip length shorts, no spaghetti strap shirts, and gentlemen must wear their pants around their waist and must use a belt. When in full uniform, students will be required to wear black knee length (NOT ANKLE LENGTH) socks and white gloves. Students who show up without will be charged a \$5 replacement fee each time. Please make sure they have the appropriate attire before competitions. When in full uniform, students will also not be allowed to wear make-up or jewelry of any kind (including piercings).

TRANSPORTATION and TIMELINESS

With an endeavor that includes over 70 students, it is imperative that students are at and on time for all of our rehearsals. At **NO TIME** will students be excused from rehearsals or performances for work obligations. Students are expected to be in the band room getting ready at least 15 minutes before rehearsal is supposed to begin. In addition, please make sure that you arrange transportation if necessary to pick your son/daughter up on time from all practices and performances, as there will not be people available after rehearsal hours to watch them. **If you need assistance on this end, please see the green sheet in this package. It includes student name, parent name, contact phone number, and street address to assist you in working out carpooling if necessary.**

Students who have three or more unexcused absences from rehearsals/performances will be removed from the marching band (at the discretion of the directors). This is due to the fact that material rehearsed in each rehearsal is important and students who miss rehearsals get behind very quickly. More information on unexcused vs. excused absences will come out to you in the Band handbook at the beginning of the school year. Students who are continuously late to rehearsals or are not picked up from football games within 30 minutes of the end of the game may also be removed from the ensemble. **In the event of a conflict with the marching band schedule, please contact me ASAP so we can work these out before school starts! Attached is an updated copy of the fall schedule, and it is also posted on the band website.**

We are very excited to begin the 2014-15 Skyhawk Marching Season, and cannot wait for the Skyhawk band to continue the legacy that it has already created!

Sincerely,

Emily M. Oyan
Director of Bands
Lloyd C. Bird Skyhawk Band