

Happy Monday!

WOW! Thanks to all of the parents who came to Parent/Teacher Conferences last week- we talked to a record number of families! It was great to chat with some familiar faces, as well as get to know some new ones!

Thanks also to all of the parents who helped out with our Band Bash festivities Friday night- we had a lot of fun throwing/rolling instruments, having relay races with the old band uniforms, and going through SIXTY pizzas!

One more thank you to the parents who helped with uniforms before and after the game, and to Mr. Moeller again for helping out on the sidelines for pregame and halftime!

CHAIR AUDITIONS- The sight-reading portion of our 2-part Chair Auditions (see handbook for more info about these) will wrap up THIS Wednesday. The first cycle will be sight-reading, which doesn't require any specific advance preparation. At the end of the sight-reading portion, the students will receive a sheet with short musical excerpts to prepare and then will sign up for a time slot for the second cycle. At that time, they will play the musical excerpts and scales (the scales must be memorized). Attending those will fulfill the remaining lesson requirements for the first quarter, given they have completed the two initial band lessons that were to have been completed by the end of Homecoming Week. Since scales are to be memorized, you should hopefully be hearing them regularly at home! Trust us- scales are not something they can "cram" for. The scale sheets are not only located in a box in our band room for the students to take at their leisure, but available on our webpage (Communications) as well.

LESSON SCHEDULE for the FIRST ROUND OF CHAIR AUDITIONS is attached! ***Please check it and make sure your son/daughter is signed up- EVERYONE should be on there!

CHAIR AUDITION GRADES: The sight-reading portion of the chair auditions (the Watkins-Farnum Sight Reading Test) is graded based on a national standard/scale, and the grades are based on the number of years each student has played their instrument. Warning: Grades for this portion are sometimes a little lower, but if the students prepare enough for the second round of auditions (scales and etudes) and have done their other 2 lessons and computer assignments, this lower score has very little impact on their overall band grade. Anyway, we just wanted to let you know in case some of you see a lower grade for sight-reading than you anticipated!

MUSIC BOOSTER MEETING TONIGHT at 7:00 pm in the Choir Room. Hope to see you there! **The minutes from the August Meeting are attached for you to peruse. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer for anything, please email Beth Ehrecke (kbest1991@netins.net) or call her at 563.940.2005.

MEDICAL FORM: ****PLEASE use the electronic MEDICAL FORM. It was created so you can type right into it and print off a nice, easy-to-read copy for us. There is very important information on there, and we want to be able to read every letter/number!! :) It is posted on the webpage (click on "Communications" at the top middle of the main page). Please return those to us ASAP!

COMPUTER ASSIGNMENTS: As stated in the 1st Quarter Cheat Sheets, each student is required to do one computer assignment each quarter (except Freshmen- they have two to do during the 2nd and 3rd

quarters). These must be done in the music computer lab (the program is on the network) and can be done at any time between 7:00 am and 4:00 pm on school days. Doing them during study hall is ideal- we can't pull students out of class to do them. The scores from these assignments count as part of their lesson grade.

REMINDER: They can re-do the computer assignments as many times during the quarter as they want to improve their grade. These scores count twice, giving the student SIX grades in the lesson/computer assignment category (4 lessons + 2 Comp) *HINT: If the students go through the lessons before taking the review, they have an opportunity to take notes. These notes may be then be used when they take the review. (In other words, they can do as well as they want- they just have to take the time!)*

CALENDAR(S)- The band calendars are all posted on the webpage (www.nsbands.com, click on "Full Calendar" at the top of the main page) in different versions. There are printable list versions, an interactive webpage version, and printable calendars that you can print off as a whole or by month and use as actual calendars! Either way, it is ALL THERE!

DINING TOUR BOOKS are now available for the students to sell. For those who are unfamiliar with these, they are books full of "two-for-one"-type coupons for QC area restaurants. They are VERY hot items (we have people calling and asking us when we will be selling them) and pay for themselves many times over. They sell for \$35 and the students must bring in money first before we give them the book (checks made out to "North Scott Band"). I have attached it as well, but you may download a list of participating restaurants from the "Communications" page on our webpage (scroll down to "Fund Raising"). You may show these to potential "buyers" so they can see what a great deal it is. Students will get \$10 profit for each book they sell (which goes directly into their account for the March 2013 Band Trip!), so we highly encourage them to get involved! We have had some students completely pay for their trip in one year's time by selling these! **IMPORTANT NOTE:** these Dining Tour books are fund-raisers for the band trip only- the choir and orchestra do separate fund-raisers for their trip.

MARCHING BAND RECORDINGS- Full recordings of the marching band music currently being worked on can be found on the webpage (www.nsbands.com). On the main page, scroll down to where it says "Download Marching Band Recordings HERE". This will take you to a page where you can download/listen to the mp3 files. This serves as a valuable practice tool for the students, since we put shows together quickly and rely a great deal on their at-home practicing to get the music ready.

BAND T-SHIRTS: Our awesome "North Scott Band" T-Shirts are available for purchase from the Band Department. They are \$8 for band students (junior high AND high school), and \$10 for all others. We have S, M, L, XL, and 2X available. The cost for 2X and larger (we can order 3X if needed) goes up \$2 for the special order. We sell them to the students at cost, so we just follow the rates from GT Sports. The sizes run fairly true (if anything, maybe *slightly* smaller) and they are a 50/50 blend. To view the T-shirts, go to www.nsbands.com/merchandise.htm . Long-sleeved NS Band T-shirts will also be ordered (gray or red), so let us know if you would like one, and what size is preferred.

ALL-STATE AUDITIONEES- The materials are now posted at www.ihsma.org (click on "All State Music Festival", and then "General Audition and Concert Information"). As always, start hitting those scales if you haven't done so already!

INSTRUMENT RENTAL FEES- To help offset the cost of yearly instrument maintenance/repair, we are asking all students who are using school instruments (including percussionists) to pay the yearly rental fee of

\$40. This covers less than half of the cost to send it in over the summer, due to wear and tear, etc. We also ask that the students TAKE CARE OF THE EQUIPMENT! If there is any excessive damage done due to carelessness or neglect (such as not putting the instruments in the cases before putting them into lockers), we will be asking the parents/students to cover the cost. We understand that accidents will happen, but we also expect the students to do their best to avoid situations that might create problems (i.e. setting the instrument on the floor in a room full of people, setting it on a music stand, not putting it back IN THE CASE before putting it in their locker, etc.).

Many questions can be answered by visiting our webpage (www.nsband.com). ALSO- the “Communications” page (link is on the top of all pages) features any information we give to the students, including forms, itineraries, links to calendars, etc. This page could also be called “find out what your child forgot to bring home”, because we created it for that very reason. We know that sometimes the info does not always make it home. We will also alert you (via the weekly emails) to anything we will be sending home with the students so you know to either expect it or go right to the “Communications” page to download it.

Thanks, and Have a great week!

~Mike and Bill

Upcoming Events:

Monday, September 26- Music Booster Meeting, 7:00 pm in the Choir Room

Monday, October 10- Mock All-State Auditions, after school in the Band Room

Friday, October 14- Home Football Game (Yearbook pictures will be taken beforehand) Report time TBA