



# ***Waverly Warriors*** **Band Boosters News**



March 2010

**GO WARRIORS GO!**

**Waverly Band Boosters**  
**P. O. Box 80982**  
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## **Greetings from the Band Directors**

### **Mr. Larzelere's Welcome**

Last week someone actually asked me, "What does the band do when marching band season is over?"... I didn't know where to start. While the marching band is the most visible part of our band program, it is just one reason why our program is successful and really only represents one quarter of the high school band program. Since marching band season ended in October, our students have been incredibly busy. We have performed at the Waverly High School Collage Concert, District Jazz Festival, District Solo and Ensemble, and most recently, District Band Festival.

The Holiday Collage Concert took place in December and is a collaborative event involving the high school band, orchestra, choir, and art departments. This year, we were able to showcase the talents of more than 250 students representing more than a quarter of WHS. These students represent why WHS is such a great school! In January, the WHS Jazz Band performed at the District 8 Jazz Festival (non-rated) and participated in a clinic with the Director of Jazz Studies at MSU, Rodney Whitaker. As a result, the WHS Jazz Band was invited to perform at MSU's Essentially Ellington Jazz Festival in April. The Jazz Band has also performed at St. Gerard, the Delta Township Library, and the Delta Side Business Expo.

In February, 70 of our finest students represented Waverly at the District Solo and Ensemble Festival in Charlotte. This event features our students in small groups ranging from solo playing to a chamber ensemble with 11 members. Preparation for this event is done largely outside of class and requires students to work either independently or with a private teacher. Waverly also did well at this event with our students receiving first and second division ratings.

Most recently, both the concert band and symphonic band performed at the district festival at East Lansing High School. Festival is to band programs as the Michigan Merit Exam is to the entire school. It serves as an evaluation tool for the progress and growth that each ensemble achieved during the course of the year. I am happy to report that both Waverly bands got first division ratings! For the sixth year in a row, the symphonic band received straight I's. The accomplishment of both ensembles is due to the hard work of our talented students as well as the feeder programs at the Middle School and East Intermediate. Congratulations to these students for their outstanding performances at this year's district band festival.

### Upcoming events:

- Saturday, March 27 – State Solo and Ensemble at Okemos High School
- Wednesday, April 21 at 7:30 PM – Jazz Night **featuring Sunny Wilkinson**, MSU professor of Vocal Jazz – FREE CONCERT!!!!
- Tuesday, May 4 – Showcase dress rehearsal 7-9 PM.
- Wednesday, May 5 – SHOWCASE 2010! – 7:30 PM, WHS Auditorium.
- May 27—June 1 – Marching Band/Orchestra trip to Disney World.
- Wednesday, June 2 at 6:30 PM – HS Band Awards Banquet, WHS Cafeteria.

*David J. Larzelere, Waverly High School Director of Bands*

## **Gorbe's Corner**

Hello Waverly Band parents, students, fans, and aficionados!

### EAST

If you missed the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade band concert on February 25<sup>th</sup>, you missed a good one! Congratulations to all of the students for making this concert the best 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade concert I have been a part of in the 12 years I have been teaching band at Waverly East. They will now begin preparing for the East/MS Spring Concert on May 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM in the High School Gymnasium. This is a great concert to attend, giving the audience a chance to hear the progression students can make in only 4 short years of playing in band. It also has a great ending, with all of the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade band students playing the Waverly Fight Song together, totaling around 360 students at once (what are we thinking?!?!?!)?!

5<sup>th</sup> grade parents will also want to be on the lookout for the homework folders which will be sent home with students starting on March 9<sup>th</sup>. The folders will be due on March 23 (usually every two weeks, although some weeks may be skipped for scheduling reasons) and will contain a two sided sheet of paper. On each side will be a half page assignment that helps the students with their music reading, such as identification of musical symbols or naming notes, and a half page for keeping track of their practice. The practice journals are aimed at helping the students practice *smarter*, spending about 10 or 15 minutes a day, 5 days a week (or more) on specific things instead of just playing what they like to play (how many more times do you *really* want to hear “Hot Cross Buns?”).

Thank you, East parents, for supporting your student in music. I keep reading study after study that shows how participation in music helps children grow and improve in all aspects of their education, not to mention how much enjoyment it can bring. Keep supporting your student's interest in music, and I know someday you will be happy you did.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL

First of all, congratulations are in order to those students who were chosen to audition for MSBOA District VIII Junior High Honors Band. Honors Band is a chance for students from all the schools in the area (from Grand Ledge to Williamston and even down by the Indiana border) to get together and perform once a year. This year the event will take place on May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at an area school (past locations have been Haslett and Okemos high schools). These students prepared an audition recording after being selected by me after they had taken this marking period's playing test. The students are: 7<sup>th</sup> graders Erin Pete, Jacob Harrell, and McKee Hibbs, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders Hannah Haugsby, Kelly Patterson, Jacob Davis, Nick Orsborn, James Nguyen, and Jason Nguyen. Good job, students!

We are deep into Festival season again. Lucky for us Festival is actually one or two weeks later than usual, giving us a lot more time to prepare. I am sure if you are a Middle School Band Parent you were at the Pre-Festival concert on

March 3<sup>rd</sup> and were able to hear the pieces we will be performing at Festival. For those of you new to the Festival experience, we will travel to another school and play the three pieces you heard at the Pre-Festival concert for three judges. We then go to another room to play another two pieces that we have never seen before (sight-reading) for another judge. These judges give us a rating which is like a grade (a Division I is like an “A”, Division II is like a “B”, Division III is like a “C”, and so on) and if we earn a high enough rating, we can order a plaque for the band room and each student gets a medal. The judges also give us comment sheets to help us improve.

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade will be performing on March 19<sup>th</sup> at the Charlotte Performing Arts Center (attached to Charlotte HS) at 4:25 PM. This is a Friday, meaning we will be leaving from school. Our departure time is 2:30, which is during our band class time, so please make sure to send the student’s band uniform in with them (band shirt, black dress pants, black dress shoes, black socks) and I will give them time to change before we get on the buses. They will be allowed to leave their backpacks and other school items in the band room and pick them up when we get back at approximately 6:15 or 6:30. The time depends on how long we have to wait for our rating to be posted. There will be concessions available, so if a student would like to bring a few dollars to have something to eat or drink after our performance while we wait for our ratings, they are welcome to do so. Parents are welcome and encouraged to join us for the performance as well as the sight-reading, and I will need 3 or 4 willing parents to ride the bus with us as chaperones.

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be performing on March 20<sup>th</sup> at Olivet High School at 1:10 PM. This is a Saturday, so I ask that the students be at Waverly Middle School by 11:00 AM in their band uniform (band shirt, black dress pants, black dress shoes, black socks). They will be able to enter through the band room door in the front of the school. We will board the school buses by 11:15, so please do not be late. We should return to Waverly Middle School by 3:00 PM or so, depending on how long we have to wait to have our ratings posted. There will be concessions available, so if a student would like to bring a few dollars to have something to eat or drink after our performance while we wait for our ratings, they are welcome to do so. Parents are welcome and encouraged to join us for the performance as well as the sight-reading, and I will need 3 or 4 willing parents to ride the bus with us as chaperones.

Jazz Night is coming up on April 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 in the HS auditorium. This is always a great concert, and this year will be no different with our guest, vocalist **Sunny Wilkinson**. Ms. Wilkinson is on staff at MSU and has been a professional singer for many years, spending 15 years in L.A. as a session singer, teacher, performer, and recording artist. This is a great chance for the Middle School and High School Jazz Bands to show off a bit and also get to perform with a professional. It’s not often you get to see a performance like this for free with the event completely sponsored by the Band Boosters.

Don’t forget that our 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade Spring Concert is on May 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM in the HS Gymnasium. This is always a great performance, and will give you a chance to remember how much the middle school students have progressed over the past 3 or 4 years. We will top it off with our traditional “Waverly Fight Song” where all 360 students will be playing at the same time! What Fun!

Thanks for the help and support you have given over the years! I hope to see you at Band Festival!

*David Gorbe, Waverly East and Middle School Band Director*

## **A few words from our student teachers ...**

Hello all!

By this point in the semester/trimester your child may have come home and mentioned something about student teachers in their band room. I am Amanda Hutchinson, a student teacher for Mr. Gorbe through Central Michigan University. I joined the team of Waverly Bands in mid-January and I have been working with the high school and

middle school bands in preparation for festival. I have also been in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade bands at East Intermediate working with individuals and groups of students toward excellence! At the middle school, we are currently working on short lessons in a history unit during the after school jazz band. Both Mr. Gorbe and I feel it is important for the students to have some background knowledge of what they are performing. We appreciate your support in this as “class” time is not usually available in a performing ensemble. I am having a great time working with your children and can’t wait to meet you at future concerts and conferences! If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me through the middle school band phone or email.

Sincerely,  
*Amanda Hutchinson*

*~Music Charms the Soul!~*

Hello,  
My name is Geordan Sherd and I am a student teacher from Michigan State University. I have been working alongside Mr. Larzelere, Mr. Gorbe and Ms. Hutchinson since classes resumed in January. I had the pleasure of conducting the high school concert band on the march *Courage* for Pre-Festival and Band Festival performances. I have also been working closely with the 6<sup>th</sup> grade percussionists on basic skills, and will soon be working with them on a percussion ensemble piece that I composed for them. Working with all of the Waverly Band students continues to be a wonderful learning experience every day. I look forward to the opportunity to meet you all in person at conferences and/or upcoming performances.

Sincerely,  
*Geordan Sherd*

## **Notes from the Booster President**

My article title should have been Random Thoughts from the Booster President. I really don’t have a theme this time.

I can’t believe how fast the time is flying by! In just a few short months my oldest daughter graduates, and it’s time for me to step down as Board President. I know the Boosters will continue on in great hands. As everyone knows, the financial picture for Waverly Schools is dire, and will continue to be so for the next few years. It’s more important than ever that we have a strong Booster program to keep band flourishing at Waverly. The strength of our Boosters doesn’t come from our bank account, but from our great Band Parents. As we close out the year, we are looking for several key volunteers; I hope you will consider giving some of your time.

I would also encourage everyone to fill out the Superintendent and Budget Priority surveys on the District website, at <http://web.waverly.k12.mi.us/index.cfm>. Make sure your voice is heard, and that they know that Band is an important part of your child’s experiences here at Waverly.

As it comes time to schedule for next year, I hope you will always continue to encourage your student to continue on with their studies in music with our great Directors, Mr. Gorbe and Mr. Larzelere. There are lots of other activities that call to the kids as they move to the Middle School and then the High School, but there is a true sense of belonging, friendship and mutual respect among band students you just won’t find anywhere else.

In closing, I would like to do my favorite newsletter thing, saying thank you. Thanks to Karyn Koenigsnecht for her many years of service as Booster Secretary, and for doing such a great job running Apple Pie Day 2009. To Claudia Martin, Treasurer extraordinaire, for keeping us organized and getting all the bills paid. To Sean Kottke, the “medicine guy” at Band Camp and the boys’ favorite chaperone (and for not hurting me over my many, many

grammar atrocities in this article). To Anne Slocum, the voice of experience and reason; Terri Raterink, who will make the band “green” while we wear our Black and Gold; and to Josey McCloud and Missy Reed for joining the board this year and for all the work they have done and will continue to do for the bands. Thanks to Jacklyn Blodgett, 2009 Band Camp chair; Areli Cavazos-Kottke for co-chairing MSU Concessions; Scott Harrell, the voice of the Marching Warriors; Pam Blair for arranging the football game meals; and of course, Kathy Nuss, who has taken such excellent care of the High School uniforms. Thank you; you make the Bands a great experience for our kids. In the interest of space, I won’t continue to name names, but a sincere thank you to our band camp chaperones, football food crew, uniform crew, MSU workers, Apple Pie Day volunteers, water crew, bus chaperones, trailer haulers, and others I’m sure I’m forgetting.

To Mr. Gorbe and Mr. Larzelere: thank you for the countless extra hours you put in each and every week to make Waverly’s Bands so great! To Mrs. Gorbe, Mrs. Larzelere, and the Gorbe and Larzelere kids: thanks for sharing your husbands and fathers with us.

*Alan Wright, Booster President*

## **Disney Trip Update!**

The Waverly High School Band and Orchestra trip to Walt Disney World is just over two months away, and there are some important dates coming up. The next payment of \$150 is due by March 20, with the balance due by April 20. Statements were sent home with all students going on the trip a few weeks ago, and if you would like to use student account money to pay for the trip, please email Band Booster Treasurer Claudia Martin at [treasurer@waverlyband.org](mailto:treasurer@waverlyband.org) as soon as possible. All students signed up for the trip **must** attend one of the two mandatory meetings **with a parent** on either Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup> or Monday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Both meetings will be held at 7:00 PM and in the WHS Auditorium. The purpose of the meeting is to go over rules and expectations for the trip, as well as to check uniform fittings. Booster Treasurer Claudia Martin will also be on hand to accept checks and verify student account balances. If you are interested in serving as a chaperone for this trip, please contact Mr. Larzelere immediately for additional details. Please see the Waverly Bands website at <http://www.waverlyband.org> for the latest updates on the trip itinerary.

## **Check Your Student Account Balance on the Web!**

Remember, you can check your Student Account Balance ANYTIME on the Band Web Site, <http://www.waverlyband.org>

You will need your student account number. Don’t know it? Send an e-mail to Claudia Martin at [treasurer@waverlyband.org](mailto:treasurer@waverlyband.org)

## **Marching Band Uniform Pillows**

We still have pillows in stock, but **supplies are limited!** Visit the Waverly Bands web site, <http://www.waverlyband.org>, for an order form or contact Booster Secretary Karyn Koenigsknecht to reserve one. The price is 1 for \$40 or 2 for \$70. Own a piece of Waverly Bands history with one of these handsome pillows, each one hand-crafted from a full uniform jacket and half a pair of uniform pants.



## **Call for Volunteers!**

The Waverly Bands have a long tradition for excellence, but that tradition goes beyond the musicianship of the students to include the dedication of a community of volunteers who support the efforts of the Directors and performers. The need for talented individuals to serve the

Waverly Band program in a voluntary capacity continues to grow as the number of students involved at all levels expands and the children of past volunteers graduate. 2010 will bring many opportunities for parents to join in the team effort to make the Waverly Bands the envy of our community and state. Here are just a few ways in which we will need your help in the coming months. Please thoughtfully consider how your unique talents might be employed to support the Waverly Band program.

### **Booster Board Officers**

Parents can nominate themselves for any position on the Waverly Band Booster Board at General Membership meetings (see below for dates), and the Boosters are especially seeking nominations for President and Treasurer for 2010-11, as the current President and Treasurer will be retiring from their positions when the school year ends.

### **Uniforms**

We are currently seeking a co-chair to help coordinate the distribution, storage and upkeep of our Marching Band uniforms. We will also need people to rehem pants and dresses for the Marching Band and concert uniforms. Please contact Booster Board President Alan Wright if you can help out with uniforms in either of these capacities..

### **Band Camp**

Chaperones will be needed for Band Camp, which will take place the first week of August this year. We will need chaperones who are able to stay overnight with our campers. As some of our tireless chaperones – especially men – who have spent the whole week with the Marching Band at Camp Kimball in past years will not have students performing in the 2010 Waverly High School Marching Band, the need for chaperones this year is particularly strong. Keep an eye out for information on Band Camp and ways that you can help out as the summer months approach.

### **Halftime Help**

Before pregame and just before the marching band performs at halftime, volunteers are needed to begin filling cups with water for the band members to drink after their pregame and halftime shows.

### **Waverly Band Boosters General Membership Meetings**

Our next Waverly Band Boosters General Membership meeting for the 2009-2010 school year will take place on **Monday, March 22 at 7:30 PM**, immediately following the Disney Trip information meeting. All General Membership meetings are held in the Waverly High School Band Room. Everyone with a child in a Waverly band is automatically a member of the Band Boosters, so please come share your thoughts and ideas about how to make the program even better for your child. If you wish to participate in private lesson reimbursement through student accounts, a parent must attend at least one general meeting to qualify (along with participation in a fundraiser). The final General Membership meeting of the year will take place on **Wednesday, May 19 at 7:00 PM**.



Check out the web site for updated calendar dates and the latest information on Waverly Bands!

[www.waverlyband.org](http://www.waverlyband.org)

Want to receive the Newsletter and other announcements through your email? Contact [newsletter@waverlyband.org](mailto:newsletter@waverlyband.org) to get on the list and connect with Waverlyband on Facebook!