



Bear Notes

SUMMER 2019

A SEASONAL NEWSLETTER FOR RHS BAND STUDENTS & PARENTS

Did You Know . . .

Dinkles - special shoes worn by marchers

Shako – cylindrical hat worn by marchers

Bibbers – pants worn by the marchers

Plume – the feather in the Shako

Drill Down – an internal competition used to practice marching commands, in which the last person caught improperly executing a command wins.

What is the RHSBPA?

The Riverbend High School Band Parents Association (RHSBPA) is a non-profit organization that works to encourage and maintain interest within the school and community in the various activities of **all RHS bands**. This Association lends all possible support, both moral and financial, to band activities, including but not limited to Marching Band, Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Jazz Band, Percussion Class, Band Class, Various Ensembles, Scholarships, and more! Funds are currently raised through event concession sales, fundraisers, etc. and not through membership dues. This allows all parents of band students to participate.



2019-2020 RHSBPA Board

Art Copeland <i>President</i>	Colleen Williamson <i>Reporter</i>
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Gerri Cole <i>Assistant Treasurer</i>	To Be Announced <i>Student Representative</i>

Tempus!

The Emerald Sound & Guard present their 2019 program, *Tempus*. The title is the latin word for time and the production will take us through different elements of time. The show will be centered around a very interactive large clock and will open to John Adams, *Short Ride in a Fast Machine*. This opening piece will explore the mechanical side of the inner workings in the clock and time.

Then the Emerald Sound & Guard will turn the clock backwards to one of the most influential years in Jazz... 1959 when Dave Brubeck's Quartet released the album, *Time Out*. In this album the quartet broke the mold by playing their unique compositions in odd meters. The ES&G will feature the most popular tune from this album, *Take Five*. This is a witty title as the piece is performed in 5 instead of the traditional 4. *Take Five* and the *Time Out* album were extremely popular and changed the face of jazz. The Emerald Sound & Guard will then spin the clock forward to present day to perform a piece by a group that is changing the face of jazz again! *Snarky Puppy* is a jazz fusion group that is extremely popular with a cult following of fans. Their piece, *Shofukan*, is one of their most popular tunes that will blow the audience away!

After exploring the past and then jumping to the present and causing a frenzy of musical style, the ES&G has put a lot of stress on the giant clock causing it to explode! In the final movement the band will play the beautiful tune *Fix You* by *Coldplay*. They will reassemble the clock, fixing time, leading to a very powerful conclusion.

3rd Annual Emerald Classic Marching Invitational

The 3rd Annual Emerald Classic has been scheduled for September 28, 2019! This competition will showcase high school marching bands throughout the region. The competition is currently scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. The judges will consist of 5 adjudicators, one in each of the following categories: Music, Visual, General Effect, Color Guard, Drum Major and Percussion.

Since the Riverbend Emerald Sound and Guard (ES&G) is hosting this competition, they will not be participating in the adjudicated portion of the competition. They will, however, showcase their show while the Judges determine the final scores and before the Awards Ceremony. Following the ES&G's performance, spectators and marchers will be able to enjoy a special performance by a major university marching band (TBA)!

Parent Volunteers are needed to make sure this competition runs smoothly! Information about how you can help will be sent out later, but please mark your calendars now to save the date!

Marching Band:

What Parents and Students Need to Know

Welcome to Marching Band 2019! We are thrilled to provide helpful information to all marchers and their families! Whether you are a first timer or a seasoned veteran, there have been some changes and we want to help get you “up-to-speed!” Here are a few things that will be happening over the next few months.

There is some new, IMPORTANT information about parking, pickup, etc. for marchers and their parents!

Camp Week One: The season starts in the summer before the school year even begins. The first week of camp starts July 22-26. During this week the Percussion section will meet to get a head start on the upcoming show. Those in Leadership (Drum Majors, Section Leaders, etc.) will meet to learn about their duties and start getting things organized for the coming season. Strong Leadership is a must to help all sections learn their portion of the performance and to keep marchers focused on their tasks. The Color Guard (defined as a non-musical section that provides additional visual effects to the show) will meet to learn their part in this season’s performance. Finally, toward the end of the week, the New Marchers Camp begins. This camp is designed to help those new to the program learn the marching steps and commands necessary for success in any marching band.



Camp Week 2: The second week of camp is the Full Band Camp that runs July 29th through August 2nd from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. During this camp, all marchers will begin to learn the music and drill (steps) for the performance, plus, they get the chance to bond as a group. They will also be measured and fitted for all pieces of their uniform. The uniform itself stays in the band room marked with their name. The marchers keep their Dinkles (shoes) and will be able to start wearing them to break them in (highly recommended). Unlike the uniform, these are yours to keep so please try to take care of them and keep them clean. A “neat” appearance is critical to looking sharp for performances. These are long days! Marchers are to bring a packed lunch; snacks and a water bottle each day. Dinner will be provided each day around 5 p.m. (potluck from donations – Hospitality Committee).

Camp Week 3: The third week of camp is again a Full Band Camp, running August 5th through August 9th from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Even though school has not started, the camp times are shorter and later because teachers and administrators are getting ready for school to start. This week they will continue to learn the music and performance. Again, bring those water bottles! Students to pack a dinner.

School Starts / Regular Weekly Rehearsals: After August 9th regular weekly rehearsals will begin. Rehearsals are Tuesday through Friday, 2:45-5:15 p.m. for all marchers. Please read about dismissal below! During the season, on game days, dinner will be provided at 5:30 p.m.

Dismissal: No one is to leave the band room until they have been dismissed by the Drum Major! After all work has been completed (whether it’s a rehearsal, competition, or a football game) the marchers gather around at attention to hear instructions, praise, etc. from the band director and then the Drum Major. Once the Drum Major has finished, he or she will dismiss the group.

Game Days: Usually on days with home games, marchers will be asked to wear their marching band t-shirt, jeans or khaki shorts and their Dinkles to show school spirit! Sometimes the outfit changes but each marcher will be informed prior to that school day. After their rehearsal ends, marchers will help load up trailers with show props, percussion instruments, etc. and help get these items to the stadium. Marchers will then go eat dinner in The Commons. After dinner, all marchers will change into their uniforms. Shakos (hats) are not to be worn inside the building once the plume has been attached! The marchers will line up and march to the stadium with cadence by the drumline. As is tradition, they will form two rows and play the school’s fight song as the cheerleaders and football players run onto the field. They will then march to center field and play the Star-Spangled Banner. The first two quarters of the football game they are in the stands playing various “stand tunes” (they are to stay with the group, not to be out socializing). Just before halftime, they will leave the stands to warm up and get ready to perform the halftime show. They typically get the third quarter “off” and are provided with a drink and a snack. The fourth quarter they are back to business! After the game the band marches to the concession and plays the show set before marching back to the band room. Once back to the band room they must once again help with the show props, percussion instruments, etc. and change out of their uniforms before they will be dismissed.

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Marching Band: What Parents and Students Need to Know (cont)

Competitions: Very similar to game night, the marchers must help load up all props and instruments into the band trailers. Once this has been completed they are to dress in their uniform and be ready to board the buses when instructed. They must help unload when they have returned to the school before they are dismissed.

Parking for Pick Up/ Drop Off: New rules about parking and student pick up went into effect last year. Basically, you are no longer allowed to park on the street by the band room or in the loading dock area. You must either park in the lot by the baseball fields or in the lot by the stadium. **If you are not parked in a parking space, then you are parked illegally.** Please be a responsible member of our community and obey the new parking rules.

Remind: We ask that all parents join "Remind." This is a communications tool that helps teachers reach students and parents. Information about this program and how to join will be explained at the mandatory meeting at the beginning of the school year. This program allows Mr. Wadsworth to send out a group text to all parents and alert them to important information including a notice when the buses are approximately 20 to 30 minutes away from the school, allowing parents enough time to get to the school to pick up their student.



CALENDAR

August 30	Riverbend at Patriot HS
September 6	Riverbend vs Freedom HS
September 13	Riverbend at James Monroe HS
September 20	Riverbend at Chancellor HS
September 21	Competition: TBA
September 27	Riverbend vs Mountain View HS
September 28	Emerald Classic at RHS
October 4	Riverbend at Colonial Forge HS
October 5	Competition: Spotsylvania HS Knight Under the Lights
October 11	Riverbend vs Massaponax HS
October 12	Competition: Hanover HS Marching Invitational
October 19	Competition: JMU Parade of Champions
October 25	Riverbend vs Stafford HS
October 26	VBODA Marching Band Assessment (@ Massaponax HS)
November 1	Riverbend vs Brooke Point HS
November 8	Riverbend at North Stafford HS
December TBD	Winter Concert
December 7	Christmas Parades (Spotsy and Fredericksburg)
January TBD	All County Band
Feb/March TBD	Pre-Assessment Concert
May TBD	Spring Concert
May TBD	Ensembles Concert
May TBD	Band Banquet
May TBD	Mini Band Camp

Get Connected!

Facebook: **RHS Bands** (closed group, RHSBPA run for Parents and Students)

Facebook: **Emerald Sound Marching Band :D** (closed group for students)

Twitter: **@esgmarchingband** (student run, for both parents and students)

Instagram: **@riverbend_bands** (student run, for students)

Website: riverbendband.com (currently being updated)

If you use **Amazon Smile** they will donate a portion of your purchase to the charity of your choice. Simply navigate to <http://smile.amazon.com>, and select the "Riverbend High School Band Parents Association" from the available list of charitable organizations. Amazon Smile will then donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the band.



Spotlight



Zach Wadsworth, Marching Band Director
Job: RHS Director of Bands
Graduated From: James Madison University
Instrument(s): Percussion
Fun Fact: I'm originally from New York and am a huge New York Yankee and Buffalo Bills fan. I love spending time with my beautiful wife and our 2 cats, Reese and Mocha. When I'm not banding... I'm banding. However, my wife and I enjoy hiking, fishing, and going to as many baseball and football games as we can.



Jennifer Lewis, Marching Band Assistant Director
Job: Chancellor Middle School Band Director, Orchestra Director at Spotswood Baptist Church
Graduated From: Grove City College
Instrument(s): trombone, trumpet, a little of this and that.
Fun Fact: I love my husband and my two crazy boys, reading, crochet, and British television.



Kellie Wadsworth, Color Guard Instructor
Job: Doctor of Physical Therapy
Graduated From: James Madison University, Shenandoah University
Instruments: Flute, Color Guard, Dance
Fun Fact/Hopes/Dreams: I'm a football fanatic and was lucky enough to be a captain and Pro Bowl Cheerleader for the Washington Redskins Cheerleaders! I love spending time with hubby, family, and our two kitties. I'm super excited for my first show with the ES&G and look forward to a fun and successful season!



Lizzie Sabo, Drum Major
Year: Senior
Instrument(s): Flute and Piccolo
Bands: Wind Ensemble
Hobbies: fitness, knitting, and organization
Fun Fact/Dreams/Hopes: I plan on being a physical therapist and a CrossFit coach.



Collin Absher, Drum Major
Year: Senior
Instrument(s): French Horn, Trumpet, and Mellophone
Bands: Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, Richmond Symphony Youth Orchestra, The Capital Symphony Youth Orchestra, and UMW concert band.
Hobbies: I love learning new things I can apply to my life in a beneficial way and always finding an academic challenge. And like any other teenager I love hanging out with my friends and creating murals of memories.
Fun Fact/Dreams/Hopes: I hope to continue my music career in college, but focus on a medical career at either Johns Hopkins or Brown.