

"The Pride of Shaker Heights"

Dear Band Students and Families,

This letter is always a fun one to write because it means we are starting the planning for the great school year that lies ahead! This year is going to be great as we expect the marching band to have 350 students, continuing to be the largest in Ohio. As with every year, this year will have some great highlights including some new teams on the football schedule, and an exciting Journey Show.

Here are some of the things you can expect in 2017-2018:

- We have 6 home games and 4 away games this year. The College Visitation game will be September 28th at Elyria. Juniors and Seniors should plan their college visits this weekend. This will be a makeup game for those who missed a game, as well as an extra credit opportunity. Underclassmen, particularly Freshmen and Sophomores, may be required to attend the Elyria game in order to fill out this band.
- Our first three games are all home games, including hosting a team from Canada on September 9th, which will also be our Mass Band Day. We are looking forward to introducing still more fans to "The Pride of Shaker Heights."
- This year, our band camp show will be a tribute to Journey, one of the greatest bands of the 20th century, and recently inducted into the Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame. It should be a great show and, as always, we will have some creative forms to entertain the fans.
- We will have five field commanders this year including returning seniors Sarah Grube and Adnan Reddy, new senior field commander Marlene Dietrich and new junior field commanders Connor Covert and Hallie Dial. All five had fantastic auditions and will be great leaders in the largest band in the state.
- Squad leader applications will be available to upperclassmen who have not already filled one out on the Marching Band page on shakerbands.org under "Marching Band Forms." Please return it along with the other forms in this packet. With our largest freshman class yet, we need as many Squad Leaders as we can get.
- **Absence Requests:** Enclosed you will find a sheet explaining our new absence policy. Absence forms must now be filled out online using the link. This link will be on the website and sent out using remind texts. This form is to be completed for every missed performance. School sports and outside ensemble conflicts will be considered excused absences, but submission of the electronic absence request is still **required**. Other absences may be considered excused or unexcused and will be addressed on an individual basis. Early and consistent communication is key to handling all conflicts. Once you have filled out the electronic absence request, you **MUST** speak to Mrs. Tyrrell or Mr. Clemens about the absence and what you will do as a makeup.

As always, it is important that everyone stay informed to make this year as successful as possible. You can find our blog on the shakerbands.org website, and we are also on Facebook (The Official Shaker Bands Group) and Twitter (@TheShakerBands). Sign up for Remind texts by texting @mrsoty to 81010

Be sure to read this packet carefully, and if you still have questions feel free to contact us. We will be checking email, clemens_j@shaker.org, tyrrell_g@shaker.org, and phone messages, (216) 295-4233, throughout the summer, but please be patient as you wait for an answer. We will be back in the office daily from 9 AM to 3 PM starting the week of July 25.

Have a great rest of your summer and see you in August!

Mr. Clemens, Mrs. Tyrrell and The Shaker Bands Staff