



# JRHS BUGLE

VOLUME 15

ISSUE 5

MARCH 2009

TAKE



NOTE

## In March

MARCH 3  
**Concert**  
7:00 p.m.

MARCH 14  
**Festival**  
Concert Band 3:15  
Symphonic Band 4:35

MARCH 17  
**Booster Meeting**  
Board 6:15 PM  
General Membership  
7:30 p.m.  
JRHS Library



A Message from the Director:

## Greetings From the Band Room!!

District Festival is quickly approaching, and the students are working hard to prepare their music. In an effort to make sure that all students are prepared for our District Festival competition on March 14<sup>th</sup>, I will be evaluating each student on their three festival pieces. I will be testing the students during class starting 2/23/09 and will continue until 3/13/09. Each student will have a total of 8 playing tests (with the exception of the percussionists). They will be tested on their assigned part. Their grade will count 8x.) The excerpts are listed on edline. The students will receive a grade of A, B, C, D, or F. The grades will be determined using the following criteria:

**“A” = A superior interpretation and performance, technically and musically, of the selection. The student demonstrates that he/she is able to meet all of the technical demands of the music with precision and no aural evidence of strain. It is, to all appearances, free of technical errors and shows much attention to music’s expressive features.**

**“B” = An excellent interpretation and performance. Technical demands are met with precision and the musical requirements are met with integrity in meeting the composer’s intent, desires, and instructions. It is an authentic reading, marred by noticeable technical errors and intonation defects. The performance lacks the polish and finesse necessary to qualify for a grade of “A”.**

**“C” = A good interpretation and performance. The student is unable to execute all of the technical demands of the music with precision and accuracy and does not demonstrate an awareness of the musical demands required for an outstanding performance. The general quality of the performance represents good preparation, attention to detail, and good musicianship; but the performance is marred by a large**

## ***From the President*** **Marching Forward...**



An unknown person said that “if nothing ever changed, there’d be no butterflies.” That’s true, but sometimes it’s hard, and somewhat painful, to wait for the butterflies to emerge from the cocoon.

Change has been in the air all year long and it still is. Your JRHS Band Boosters Executive Board has been struggling with a changing economy and trying to make the right decisions for our members. We started our year with 15 fewer students than had been reported to us when the budget was developed in May of last year. Consequently, our revenues were \$5,250.00 short as we started the year. Just like other organizations, our fundraising efforts have not met their goals as well. So, like our families, we are struggling in these difficult financial times and are trying to determine how to adequately support all of the JRHS band programs.

While the Executive Board is struggling with this, we are also trying to be very sensitive to our members and their situations. We are aware that many of our member families have not been immune to the layoffs that have occurred in the area. That is why we cancelled the Chicago trip. The cost was very high and did not include spending money the kids would want to take.

We recently announced a new trip that we hope will be less expensive for our members. Mr. Cottrill and Sandy Bowen, our trip coordinator, have spent count-

less hours trying to find a trip that will provide a fun experience for our students coupled with a quality band competition at a reasonable price. They have researched a variety of destinations and tour companies. They have also looked at what other bands around the area are doing and are finding that our trip selections are comparable in price to other bands. We realize that it has delayed things, but it was important to us to make a well-researched decision. I want to thank both Mr. Cottrill and Sandy for their perseverance. The kids have worked hard this year and we would very much like to provide them with a fun, rewarding experience. We believe that a trip is an important factor in keeping morale up. Next year, we plan on announcing our trip destination at the end of band camp which will give our families several months to fit it in their budgets. We also are planning to unveil a new program to allow students to earn money throughout the year to pay for the trip.

It’s hard to believe, but March 4 is right around the corner. That is the traditional date for next year’s marching band season forms to be released. Please keep your eye open online and in your student’s backpack for these forms. There will be changes with regards to deadlines, so please pay close attention. We are trying very hard to keep any increase in band camp fees to a minimum and are hoping that we will not need to increase fees at all.

Also, please be on the lookout for information regarding opportunities to get more involved in band boosters next year. I want to thank Dianna Gettas, Caryn Hermann, and Liesl Delisio for agreeing to serve on the Nominating Committee. Remember, without everyone’s help, we cannot continue the quality support we have given to the JRHS band programs in past years.

I look forward to seeing you at the March 3 pre-festival concert at JRHS at 7 p.m. I also encourage you to come to L. C. Byrd High School on March 14 to support both our concert and symphonic bands on the “second leg” of their quest to become an Honor Band for 15 years. Change is in the air, but the butterflies (our students) are emerging from their cocoons and it’s wonderful to be a part of it. Thanks for all of your support.

***Robin Hegner***  
JRHS Band Booster President



**number of technical errors, obvious problems with intonation, rhythmic inaccuracies, and a lack of dynamic contrast.**

**“D” = A performance which approximates the technical and musical requirements of the music but is seriously lacking in its rendition. The performance is consistently weak and filled with technical errors and intonation problems. The performer has obvious weaknesses in the basic fundamentals of embouchure, tone production, rhythms, and articulation, and is not prepared to meet the technical or musical demands of the music.**

**“F” = A performance which is unacceptable technically or musically. It demonstrates a lack of technical proficiency and music understanding. Careless and bad playing habits are prevalent, evidencing poor preparation.**

If a student receives a grade lower than an “A” on any given playing test, they will be allowed to re-take the test as many times as it takes. They will have until the 13<sup>th</sup> of March to complete all 8 tests. I will be available during lunch and after school for any student that wishes to take their test during that time.

**In order for a student to perform at the District Festival Competition, they must receive at least a “B” average on all 8 playing test.**

Our Pre-District concert is scheduled for Tuesday March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm. All students must be in the band room no later than 6:00pm to get dressed. I have invited Mr. Jim Stegner, Mr. Earl Shaffer, and Mr. Jim Hale to act as judges for us that evening. They will be commenting on our music and letting me know what we need to work on in our last couple of rehearsals.

District Festival will be held at LC Bird High School this year on Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup>. I encourage all parents to come out and support your child and our band program. Below is the schedule for the day. Both bands will be traveling together.

I am looking forward to two great performances. Please encourage your child to continue to practice at home!

On a different note, John Weisiger, Conner Powell, Ashley Oldani, Aaron Williams, and Sean Cook qualified for the opportunity to audition for the VBODA All State Bands. They will travel to JMU February 28<sup>th</sup> to audition. Wish them LUCK!!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email me at keith\_cottrill@ccpsnet.net or call me at school (804) 378-4448.

With Regiment Pride!!  
*Keith Cottrill*

### Schedule for March 14

**Arrive at JRHS** 12:30 pm  
**Leave JRHS** 1:30 pm

**Concert Band**  
**Warm Up** 2:45 pm  
**Perform** 3:15 pm  
**Sightread** 3:35 pm

**Symphonic Band**  
**Warm Up** 4:05 pm  
**Perform** 4:35 pm  
**Sightread** 5:05 pm

**Return to JRHS** Between 6:30 and 7:00pm

## Spring Trip Report

### Destination: Baltimore/Annapolis Heritage Music Festivals

Mr. Cottrill listened to the feedback he was receiving from the students about the original spring trip planned for Chicago. After researching alternative festivals and destinations, the Heritage Music Festival in Annapolis offers us a good alternative. Not only is the cost of travel less, but the overall cost to visit Baltimore and Annapolis is less than it was to visit Chicago.

Six Flags amusement park in Upper Marlborough, Maryland is open and available as an option through Heritage. Included as well is a home Baltimore Orioles baseball game against the Texas Rangers. The only meals not included would be lunch at Balti-



more Inner Harbor the first day and dinner at the baseball game at Camden Yards the first night.

With the cooperation of this tour operator we can extend the deadline for refunds to March 4, 2009. Please keep this in mind if you have already made payments. The payment schedule remains the same. It is posted on our web site. As we do every year the final payment amount will be determined after we have a final count on participants. Please note that we are limited to seating available on one 55 passenger charter bus.

To offer a package price less than \$500 per person traveling, we need to have 48 students take the trip. So far, we have 40 who have signed up and paid. We can not determine the final cost until we know how many students will be coming on the trip. Once we have 48 students committed to travel we will establish a wait list for others interested in going.

The band will compete in concert at this festival. It is important to Mr. Cottrill to have a proper instrument distribution to have the best sound. Mr. Cottrill will be



reviewing the list of students who have committed to the trip so far to make sure that he has the instruments he needs on this trip. Watch your e mails for further announcements.

Time is short now to make our arrangements so that we can be sure to have a Friday competition slot. If you have not sent in your money and trip commitment letter please do so right away.

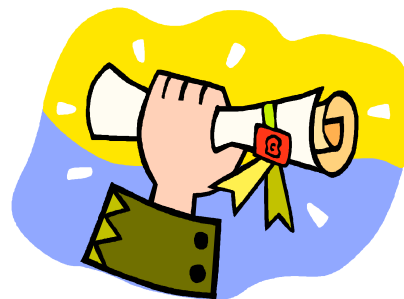
If you have questions, please contact Sandy Bowen at 370-7877 or [adbowen@msn.com](mailto:adbowen@msn.com) and Mr. Cottrill at 378-4448 or [keith\\_cottrill@ccpsnet.net](mailto:keith_cottrill@ccpsnet.net).

Travel details are on the web site. I will make up dates there as new information becomes available as well send e mails to the band family.

## It's Scholarship Application Time!!!

Each year the Band Boosters award scholarships to band and auxiliary squad members who demonstrate outstanding participation/performance and service in the James River band program. Application packets may be picked up in the band room beginning March 11, 2009. The application and scholarship essay will be due no later than April 22, 2009 at 2:30p.m. No Extensions Allowed.

For more information, please contact Ginger James at 379-9821.



## All District

On Friday and Saturday, February 6 and 7, students selected from schools in District III of the Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors' Association participated in All-District Band at Monacan High School. District III is composed of schools from the cities of Colonial Heights, Hopewell and Petersburg, and the counties of Amelia, Appomattox, Brunswick, Charlotte, Chesterfield, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Goochland, Greenville, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nottoway, Powhatan, Prince Edward, and Prince George.



James River was well-represented by the following students:

Britney Berg, Rebecca Boelzner, Kyle Buck, Sean Cook, Mary Gettas, Katie Giles, Michael Hegner, Patrick Hunnicutt, Zack Jillani, Paul Lee, Hannah Martin, Ashley Oldani, Liz Peters, Connor Powell, Brittany Richardson, Josh Tolton, John Weisiger, and Aaron Williams.

In addition, five of these students qualified to audition for All-Virginia Band on February 28 at JMU. They were: Sean Cook, Ashley Oldani, Connor Powell, John Weisiger and Aaron Williams.

Congratulations to all of these students!

## Jazz Band News



The Jazz Band, under the direction of Bryan Hooten had an exceptionally exciting month. Bryan, also a member of the jazz group Fight the Big Bull, arranged for a truly unique experience for the jazz band students. Bryan was able to bring trumpeter/arranger Steven Bernstein from New York City to record an album with his band and do some workshops. Mr. Bernstein is an internationally recognized trumpeter and composer whose work is at the forefront of modern jazz. He spent 2 ½ hours helping our students prepare their written music and giving tips on improvisation. See the slide show of Steven Bernstein and the JRHS jazz band. [http://static.mgnetwork.com/rtd/slideshows/20090222\\_steve/index.html](http://static.mgnetwork.com/rtd/slideshows/20090222_steve/index.html)

On Sunday February 22, the Richmond Times-Dispatch printed a story about this event. The article shares Bernstein's inspirational thoughts on music and describes life lessons learned from playing music.

[http://www.timesdispatch.com/rtd/news/local/education/article/B4-STEVE22\\_20090221-213206/212528/](http://www.timesdispatch.com/rtd/news/local/education/article/B4-STEVE22_20090221-213206/212528/)

## Fundraising News

**Ukrop's** Golden Gift Program starts March 2 and runs through March 28. In May, Ukrops Valued Customers will receive their Golden Gift certificates in the mail. When those come in, you will get a reminder from the Band Boosters that we are looking for your certificate! For the Boosters to participate in the over \$200,000.00 that Ukrops contributes to the community, we must have \$1,000 in certificates to redeem. This is your opportunity to contribute to the Band program without having to sell anything or write a check.

Watch for announcements as the Board prepares a new fundraising initiative designed to let you put money into your student's student accounts.

For the first time, we will be selling space in the **Spring Concert program** if you wish to commemorate this program with special wishes for your senior or a senior near and dear to your hearts. We will announce pricing in next month's Bugle and have order forms on the web site.



On the web site, we will also be acknowledging the local businesses that have been so generous to our organization this past year by placing a link to their web sites, or at least their names and telephone number under the sponsors section (some do not have web pages). If you have an interest in helping us sell posting on this space for next year, please let Sandy Bowen know at [adbowen@msn.com](mailto:adbowen@msn.com).

### Contact/E-mail Updates:

Send changes to your mailing address/e-mail to:  
[jrhsboosters@yahoo.com](mailto:jrhsboosters@yahoo.com)

### Bugle Articles:

Articles are due the 24th of each month. E-mail them to our mailbox at:  
[jrhsboosters@yahoo.com](mailto:jrhsboosters@yahoo.com)

## JRHS Band Boosters Board of Directors

<b>President:</b>	Robin Hegner
<b>Vice President (<i>Fund-raising</i>):</b>	Sandy Bowen
<b>Vice President (<i>Special Projects</i>):</b>	Lisa Germano
<b>Corresponding and Recording Secretary:</b>	Angela Byrnside
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Jill Schildkamp
<b>Assistant Treasurer:</b>	Sue Collins
<b>Guard Representative:</b>	Bob Daffron
<b>Percussion Representative:</b>	Ann Powell
<b>Past President:</b>	David Harpe
<b>Band Director:</b>	Keith Cottrill, 378-4448

## James River High School Band Boosters

3700 James River Road  
Midlothian, VA 23113