

Funk Band Show!

Magic Music Days!

Band Camp!



Congratulations and welcome to the 2009 Forest Hills Central RANGER Band Family! We are eager for the 2009 marching season to begin. This year's theme will be a Funk band show that will include the music of Bill Chase, Blood, Sweat and Tears and Tower of Power. Our fall schedule will feature five home football games, Homecoming Parade, a band festival at Kenowa Hills, MSBOA District 10 Marching Festival and will conclude with Bandtasia 2009 – another exciting season on the horizon!

Our performance excellence begins when every single member of the RANGER Marching Band attends Band Camp. Although we are unable to require summer events, we find this experience is so much fun and rewarding that nearly every band member attends. In 2008, only 5 marchers did not attend camp. Those who don't attend camp have a significant amount of work to make up and find themselves very behind in the marching season. This season all fall varsity sports are scheduled to begin after Band Camp, allowing all of our band/athletes to attend camp. This is in agreement with both directors and athletic coaches. If you are **NOT ATTENDING** Band Camp, you must contact Mr. DeStefano to validate the reason.

Band Camp this year is at Central Michigan University (Mt. Pleasant) from August 2-7, 2009

Several other high school marching bands from our region attend this weeklong experience. Each band is housed in the CMU dormitories, and the university recreational facilities are included in the cost of the camp. This crucial week focuses on the musical and marching fundamentals needed for a successful school year. Our success this season is predicated on each member's attendance. The Band fee for 2009 is \$285, a 10% (\$35) reduction from last year and a 25% (\$90) reduction from 2 years ago. Please refer to the registration form for details. For financial hardship, please contact a director.

Band Camp 2009 will run similar to last year:

Sunday, August 2, 2009: bus transportation to CMU...Band Camp begins!

Monday-Wednesday: outrageous fun and hard work at CMU

Thursday, August 6: Parents (or carpools) will pick up students at CMU at 6PM

Friday, August 7: students will report to FHC at 1pm to finish up Band Camp. Mandatory for all students. Anyone not attending this day will be in jeopardy of losing membership in the band program.

Friday, August 7: Kick-off Show at 7pm at the FHC stadium. Bring the whole family and show off our inaugural performance of our Funk Band Show!

Entire next week: No Practices! Kick back and enjoy your vacation before school starts. These revisions have been made to save on transportation, lodging, meals and other escalating costs, keeping Band Camp affordable in today's tough economic climate. These improvements allow **all** students to participate in camp, freeing up another summer week for your family.

IMPORTANT DATES PRIOR TO SCHOOL STARTING

July 23rd – Freshman and Leadership Team 7-9pm

July 30th – All Band Pre-camp Rehearsal 7-9pm

August 2-7 – Band Camp

August 17th & 18th - Band Rehearsal 7-9pm

August 24th & 25th - Band Rehearsal 7-9pm

August 28th - FIRST HOME FOOTBALL GAME

September 3rd - SECOND HOME GAME (BAND Sponsored Cook-out/Tailgate)

Enclosed with this letter are the following forms to fill out and send in with your payment by **May 21, 2009**:

Band Registration Form
Band Volunteer Form
CMU Medical History Report
Band Payment

ALL DUE MAY 21, 2009

Walt Disney World: Each year we look for performance/educational opportunities to continue the growth and experiences of our ensembles. Plans are underway for a trip to Orlando, Florida for **Disney's Magic Music Days on Feb. 10-15, 2010**. The cost for this 5 night trip is \$1370. This trip is for all members of the band but is not mandatory. Those planning to participate need to send a \$100 non-refundable deposit by June 1, 2009. Please see the enclosed letter/form for more details.

Cash and Communication: Now is the time to get involved with fundraising. It is a wonderful way to help fully pay or defray the cost of Band Camp, the Disney Trip, and other band related expenses your child will incur with our program during their four-year high school career. Make sure you are on our FHC BANDS email list to receive participation information about our fundraisers. If you are not receiving band emails, simply send an email to FHC BANDS@gmail.com, requesting to be added to the distribution list. Email is our primary method of communication, so don't be left out of the loop!

Parents, you are truly what allows us to do what we do and I encourage you to get involved with the band program. Your involvement, no matter how large or small is what makes our organization special and really fun. Our booster organization has grown significantly over the past year and has provided a great chance for parents to see their children develop into music. We are truly blessed to work with your kids. Don't forget to take a moment to complete the enclosed Band Volunteer Form. What can be more important than being involved with your kids?

If you have any questions regarding Band Camp, please call John DeStefano or Bob Engelsman at 493-8717. Please accept our heartfelt gratitude for your commitment to musical and visual excellence in the RANGER Marching Band.

Musically Yours,

John DeStefano, Director

Robert Engelsman, Director