

HICKORY RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL BANDS

7321 Raging Ridge Road
Harrisburg, NC 28075

Chris L. White
Director of Bands

Dear Marching Band Families:

It's that time of year again. We have just completed guard and leadership auditions, music is being arranged, schedules set, and preparations made. The 2009 Blue Regiment will begin rehearsals in just a few weeks. It's hard to believe this will be our third season!

Enclosed in this packet are several vital pieces of information. You will find a complete summer and fall rehearsal and performance schedule, a copy of the 2009 Commitment form, and copy of our Payment Voucher Form, and a Rule and Policy Change Form. Please review each of these very carefully as it is crucial that everyone understands all of our expectations for the coming year.

First let me inform you of a change for this summer. We will have a "Mini Camp" this year. It will take place at Hickory Ridge from 8:00am-12:00pm on June 15th-17th. Last year we had a terrible problem with not knowing how many "dots" to write for. We ended up with many unfilled spots, which lead to frustration and hours of lost time at band camp due to numerous re-writes of our entire show. So, this year we will have a short camp at the beginning of the summer so we can more accurately determine our membership. It will give us a chance to teach the new members our marching fundamentals, allow us to prepare music for our fall production, help us get ready for the Harrisburg Parade, and let us know for how many people to write the drill.

In addition, there will be a mandatory parent/student meeting at 6:00pm on Monday, June 15th. Each student must attend, as well as at least one parent. We will be going over all of the expectation of the year and answering questions you may have. This is an attempt to resolve any issues well in advance of band camp and the marching season. So please mark this date on your calendar now and make plans on being with us.

Two years ago many students changed schools and directors and came to Hickory Ridge. Some came with apprehension, some with excitement, but almost all came with a desire to have one of the best band programs in the state. In two short years we have won Grand Champion trophies, marched in the London Parade, received five Superior plaques from the state bandmasters association for our concert and jazz ensembles, seen our Winter Guard receive two silver medals at Championships for two consecutive years, placed many students in County, District, and All-State Honor Bands, and played a huge role in establishing Hickory Ridge.

This year brings another time of change for us and we will need to recall the lessons we learned from that first year. We lose our first graduating class of seniors, and along with them their hard working and dedicated parents. We thank them for their outstanding dedication and leadership. We have a new panel of student leaders, new Booster Board members, new chaperones and Roadies, and new staff members who have been waiting for their turn to shine. All of this will be an adjustment for us all, but I am confident we will once again find collective success!

I'm looking forward to this year with much anticipation. I think it could be our best one yet. I hope you feel the same.

Musically,
Chris White

Checklist: _____ Commitment Form (due no later than June 17th)
_____ First Non-Refundable \$100 Deposit (due no later than June 17th)
_____ Signed Rule and Policy Change Form (due no later than June 17th)