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Cheshire High School Band Parents' Association

From the President Ken Baranoski

As our students of the Marching Ram Band look forward to the USSBA All States competition at Giants Stadium, we can look back over the past few months and reflect upon their dedication and hard work as a team and as individuals, striving to perform at their best. We are also fortunate to have a dedicated staff to instruct and motivate our students toward their success on the field. Later this month at our "band family" Banquet, we'll recognize our students' achievements;

and while you're there, take a moment to personally thank the instructors too!

Our CHS Band Parents' Association activities continue throughout the year, as do the CHS Instrumental Music programs. We need both parent and student help at our upcoming Train Show and Christmas tree pickup, and be sure to participate in the other upcoming fundraisers. I also encourage you to be a participant in the annual Board of Education and

Town budget process over the next few months.

Back to the music 🎵 – I hope all of you will be at Giants Stadium to give your best cheers for the Marching Ram Band. Be sure to be in the audience for the CHS instrumental music concert in December where, in addition to the concert band, symphonic band and orchestra, you'll hear, feel and be moved by the music of *Frieda* in a way that you have not yet experienced.

From the Secretary John Begina

Photos and videos

Hold onto those photos from band competitions and events! We will hold a photo exchange at the band banquet. Bring duplicates and photos you cannot use and take some new ones home! And, your digital photos and videos are needed for Don Dore's annual video extravaganza – a perennial highlight at the band banquet!

Individual Band Member Photos

Individual photographs have been distributed. In the envelope with your child's photograph is an envelope marked "group photo order". Use this envelope to order selected group photographs, including the popular 11x14 full band photo. Simply complete the order envelope, enclose your payment [checks payable to Rick Ciaburri Studio]

and place the envelope in the BPA forms lockbox in the Band Room hallway. Additional group photo order envelopes are available in the forms rack in the hallway. Photos can also be ordered over the Internet using the information provided on the group photo order envelope. Orders for the photos taken by Rick Ciaburri Studio should be submitted no later than November 8th for an early December arrival.

From the Financial VP Joanne Tenney

Retail Sales – Final Days!

Stop by our “Retail Sales” tables on Thursdays in the Band Room. Our last day will be Thursday November 8th. We still have some great items (hint: gifts) for your student or yourself!! We would rather not store the inventory until next year! It's getting cold out there. We have hand warmers, red plaid flannels and Ram Band embroidered blankets to keep you warm.



A few Bandies after the Vietnam Memorial show

Car Raffle

Please remember to send in any & all sold stubs so we can keep an accurate track of sales. We have a long way to go and need to keep the effort going! This is a great effort for our current students and a great legacy to leave for students for many years to come.

Remember – we are doing this for the kids. Not just our kids, but for all those that will follow.

Amazon.com

If you shop through amazon.com®; remember to always access amazon.com® through our website www.ramband.com, then go to the “fundraising opportunities” section; then click on the amazon.com® logo. Amazon.com sells books, music, electronics, apparel and home & garden items. Tell your friends too! A portion of the sales proceeds will benefit the CHSBPA.

USSBA All States Championships Tickets

Tickets: In accordance with USSBA membership rules, we must purchase a quota of 165 tickets. Tickets are \$15 each and are “general admission”. Due to this quota, we ask that every family purchase at least one ticket – whether you are going or not! Please buy your tickets from the BPA as the USSBA will rebate a portion of the

advance sale proceeds to us. Tickets will be available at our retail sales tables or from Duane Beale, contact info: duanebeale1@cox.net, 271-0160.

Ram Band Bus Tours: We are running ONE parent bus to the competition on Saturday, November 10th, and still have a few seats available for sale. We are making those seats available on a first paid first served basis to anyone wishing to ride along. Tickets are available Tuesday and Thursday after 8PM. The package price is \$50.00 for the bus and show ticket. Forget about the driving and traffic; save your gas \$\$, toll \$ and parking \$; leave the driving to us! Expected departure time is 4pm.

Photos: We expect that there will be a formal and an informal photograph taken of the Band after they perform. As of press time, we are not sure if we can order them ahead of time at a discounted price. As soon as we know, we will inform you via email. (FYI, the formal photo has been the most popular one.)

Band Banquet

Banquet reservation forms are due!!!! On Wednesday, November 28, 2007 at 6:00 pm, we will celebrate the end of our season with a Band Banquet and Award Ceremony at the Aqua- Turf Club in Southington. All parents are encouraged to attend this memorable event! For more information, see the accompanying form. A note about the seating arrangements: while the Band members have reserved seating, parents are seated as “general admission” in tables of 10 and roadies are requested to sit with their parents. If you have questions, please contact Joanne Tenney.

From the Financial VP Cont. Joanne Tenney

Train Show

The Fall Train Show is coming down the tracks, arriving on Sunday November 18th.

Each November and March, the BPA hosts a Train Show at CHS. The Cafeteria, Commons and the East Gym are filled with more than 90 vendors of model railroad hobby items, memorabilia and the like. We also have several local Model Railroad Hobby Groups that set up elaborate layouts of various sizes.

We need many volunteers to organize and run the show. Like most fundraisers, it is a labor intensive one requiring kitchen workers, set-up and clean up. As a fundraiser, the BPA collects admissions to the show, sells the vendors table space and sells food concessions from the cafeteria. We also utilize a number of student workers who can earn money for their Band Member Accounts. Sign-up sheets for student workers have already been posted in the Band Room.

If you have any questions and if you can assist in this important fundraiser, please contact Bill Colwell (272-2967) or Denis Quinit (271-3357).



Yearbook

The Marching Band Yearbook will be ready soon! We are planning to have it available in December at a cost of \$15-\$20; order forms will be provided soon. This keepsake will have all of the individual student photos along with a lot of other memorable pages.

We are looking for a parent or two to help take orders and then distribute the books. If you have some time to spare (short term!), please Joanne Tenney.

Ram Cards!

The new RAM Cards will be picked up from Barker Specialty soon. We would like to have 100 percent participation in this great fundraiser. It's one of the biggest fundraisers for the band and one of the easiest ways to add \$\$ to your student's account.

For those who are not familiar with the program, the RAM card is a discount card, similar in size and shape to a credit card. This year, there are 17 businesses that have taken an "ad" on the back of the card, offering a variety of discounts. The cards are valid for an entire year - from the time of purchase through December 31, 2008!

The cards cost only \$5 and \$3 of that goes directly into the student's account. The cards virtually sell themselves since so many people are familiar with them now and look for them as soon as we start selling. This is an easy way to add money to the account, with very little effort.

Call Marie Solomon at 272-0574, or

keep checking your email for notices on how you can pre-buy the cards and have the money count for the trip.

We will have about 1,000 cards to sell. Emails will go out explaining how to participate by signing up for timeslots at Stop & Shop, Everybody's, Bagelicious, and elsewhere. We need your help to move the cards out quickly. This is a terrific opportunity to raise some money. Everyone wins!

It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas

Planning for the annual Christmas tree pick up is underway and we need help. We could use eight to ten people to help with the mass mailing, processing responses, making follow up calls, finalizing collection schedules, following up after the event, setting up signs, and coordinating the 800 trees we typically pick up. On the day of the event, January 12th, we need at least fifty volunteers to provide the labor. Finally we need a lot of equipment. Rentals are our largest expense and approach 25% of gross receipts. Our goal is for expenses to be only 10%. The ideal vehicles are pick up trucks and large capacity vehicles with a dump body, but any type of large capacity vehicle will be put to use, we've even used a boat trailer and a wood chipper in the past. Please let Duane know ASAP if you have equipment as I will be renting the necessary vehicles in the next two or three weeks. Call Duane Beale (271-0161) or Mike Brecher (699-1611) to help out.

CHSBPA
 PO Box 463
 Cheshire, CT 06410



Contact the CHSBPA Board:

Band Director:	John Kuhner	250-2534	jkuhner@cheshire.k12.ct.us
President:	Ken Baranoski	272-1958	president@ramband.com
Internal V.P.:	Paul Veiga	250-0867	internal_vp@ramband.com
Financial V.P.:	Joanne Tenney	272-1854	financial_vp@ramband.com
Treasurer:	Yvonne Petrin	272-2840	treasurer@ramband.com
Secretary:	John Begina	271-1861	secretary@ramband.com

Our Website – www.ramband.com

Our website is regularly updated and includes links to everything you need to know. Some of the things you can find there are:

- The latest Band and Music Department Calendar which includes upcoming rehearsals, events and the event day's activity schedule (click on the event to see the day's schedule)
- Forms and Handbooks – all of the season's required forms are available for download.
- Fundraiser Information– including amazon.com
- Links to other sites – including USSBA and other music sites

CHECK THE CALENDAR @ www.ramband.com		
Saturday	November 10 TH	USSBA Group V Open Championships
Sunday	November 18 TH	Train Show
Thursday	November 22 ND	Thanksgiving Day Pancake Breakfast & Game
Wednesday	November 28 TH	Marching Band Banquet, Aqua Turf Club, Southington