

Pride of the Bluegrass

The News of the Lafayette Band

From the Director's Desk



Charles M. Smith

Football, Competitions, State Finals: It's All Here!

Welcome back! And to our enthusiastic freshmen class, we're glad you're here. We've had great leadership from the senior class in the early days of the season and I think you'll find that hard work in July will reap great results in October.

The early instructions to rest well, stay hydrated and dress appropriately have been heeded so far and I'd like to remind everyone to keep those habits up when after-school rehearsals start in mid-August.

I'm excited about the 2011 marching show, which we have titled "Shadows of Eternity." The music includes selections from Rachmaninoff, several of which you'll recognize, and the images of shadows are visually exciting. In the course of designing the show, we went into Lafayette history and found a Manzoni Requiem that is compatible with the shadow imagery, and you'll also hear Hungarian Dance from Swan Lake.

Shadows can have a dark element, but they can be fun, too, which is where the concept of Peter Pan popped in. I've told several students, however, that "no, this is not a show about Peter Pan." You'll see elements of the moon as well as light in the four movements of the show. The show is designed to appeal not only to my six-year-old, but to his papaw and to everyone in between. I've enjoyed getting started on it, and I hope to give you an idea of its direction at the Parent Performance on Aug. 5.

Please take the time to review the calendar for the Fall 2011 semester,

which is posted on the website (www.lafayetteband.org). It will only take a few minutes to transfer the dates on the calendar to your family calendar, including the dates for Band Camp 2012. We like to get those dates into your hands as early as possible so our families have plenty of time to make plans for the coming summer.

Schedule Conflicts

When you note conflicts between our calendar and yours, please make me aware of them as early as possible. Students need to take responsibility for their calendar, using their skills of organization and planning and I hold them accountable for that organization. However, when they have a conflict, I would like to work that out with parents. I begin my day at Jessie Clark Middle School, but can be reached by phone in the Band Room after 10:30 every morning (381-3484) or through email, chuck.smith@lafayette.kyschools.us.

In addition to competitions and football games, the calendar lists all LBA parent and board meetings, as well as the kick-off dates for our fundraisers. You'll note that our football season is heavily loaded toward the beginning of the season, and I'd like to bring special attention to the fact that no rehearsal is scheduled for Aug. 10-11. That's not a misprint; don't be afraid that I'm going to come back and change my mind. We'll have rehearsal on Monday and Tuesday nights that week and by Wednesday, it will be

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The purposes of the Lafayette Band Association are to lend support, both moral and financial, to the Lafayette High School Band and to cooperate with the Band Director so that the Band is brought to and kept at the highest possible degree of performance and musicianship.

Dates to Remember

- Aug. 1-5 Band Camp
- Aug. 5 Parent Performance/Cookout
- Aug. 6 Picture Day
- Aug. 8 LBA Parent meeting, 7 pm
- Aug. 10-11 No Band practice
- Aug. 11 First Day of School
- Aug. 17 Cheese and Sausage kick-off
- Aug. 18 Dr. Tim Leadership Workshop
- Aug. 19 No School, No Rehearsal
- Aug. 25 LHS Open House
- Aug. 26 LHS vs. Bell County, 6 pm
- Sept. 2 LHS vs. Lexington Catholic, 7:30 pm
- Sept. 9 LHS vs. Owensboro (Homecoming)

LBA Parent Meeting

Mon. Aug. 8, 7 p.m.
LHS Cafeteria
Turn in the money for discount card sales (deadline, Aug. 18), receive a report on the early season and plans for the football season.

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time for a little break. Thursday is the first day of school, which is always a full and stressful day for everyone. Over the years, we've learned that rehearsals on the first day of school are just not terribly productive. But we'll be back in action the next afternoon!

Please note, however, that we're an all-weather band. Even if it's rainy, we'll work however or wherever we can. And since Band is a co-curricular class, after-school rehearsal is mandatory, although we can work out the occasional conflict.

Even though it's still early in the camp schedule as I write this, I'm already looking forward to the end-of-camp performance planned for Aug. 5. This event has become a real celebration of the Lafayette Band, and I always look forward to seeing returning alumni and parents. There is more information about the performance and the cookout on the website and on page 5.

Check website frequently

Speaking of the Band website, I encourage you to check it frequently, even every day. And if you haven't yet signed up to receive Twitter messages via your phone, that's a great way to stay up-to-the-minute on Band news, especially during competition season. We've gotten into the habit of tweeting the time of our arrival back to Lafayette while we're on the road; receiving a message on your phone 15

minutes before we get back beats the heck out of sitting in the parking lot at all hours of the night.

Another way you can stay in touch with the happenings of the Lafayette Band is through our Facebook page, Lafayette Band Pride of the Bluegrass. I really hope to connect and reconnect with Band alumni, as well as parents with this page. Check it out!

Continuing on through our events in August, the Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser Leadership Workshop is scheduled for Aug. 18 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Students always find Dr. Tim's workshop beneficial and enjoyable, and I encourage everyone to participate.

Schedules and Itineraries

You will receive an itinerary for each Band event, including football games and competitions. Although the first football game on Aug. 26 has an unusual start time (6 p.m.), games usually begin at 7:30 and are over by about 9:45.

Senior Night is scheduled for September 16; senior parents, you'll receive instruction about this event that takes me by surprise every year. It seems that just the day before yesterday this class assembled for an extra week of band camp and we've already seen them mature into leaders. As the parent of a sophomore, I can say that time is speeding by!

Itineraries for competitions will be posted as soon as I receive the contest

schedule from the host school.

Usually, the information is available early in the week of the contest and I will share it with you via email as soon as I receive it.

Please note, in October, that while school is out on semester break on the 13th and 14th, the Band will have a mini-camp with W. Dale Warren, a master teacher and the director of bands for the University of Arkansas. He was here for a couple of days during Band Camp and I know the kids always respond well to him and gain much from their work with him. We have no contest on the 15th, but two days of intensive work with Mr. Warren will prepare us for the state competition which begins with quarterfinals the following weekend.

Quarterfinals determine which bands will qualify for eight spots in the east and eight in the west, but more important, how we place in quarterfinals determines the seeding for semi-finals the following week.

State in Bowling Green

As you know, state semi-finals and finals return to Bowling Green this year because of conflicts with the availability of Papa John's Stadium in Louisville. While the stadium at Western Kentucky University is a fine venue, we've already been notified that our warm-up spot is nearly a mile from the stadium and we're pretty sure that parking will be terrible. All I can tell you is to wear comfy shoes and be ready for a challenge. The Band is ready to rise to that challenge and do the best we can.

We'll be in a hotel on Friday night, Oct. 29. because of the late hour when the contest finishes, we plan to stay in the gym at Greenwood High School on Saturday. I don't think the kids will have any trouble getting to sleep that night and we'll plan to get up, breakfasted and on the road Sunday morning. One more Band adventure to add to your list!

With competition season ending a little earlier this year, I would like to encourage all students to audition for the KMEA All-State Band. We want all of our musicians to be great and the experience of perfecting the audition

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***Thanks for your support of the Lafayette Band
and music education!***

music for All-State moves students toward greatness. The first audition takes place on November 15 at Bates Creek High School and the call-back will be December 10 at John Hardin High School in Elizabethtown. That audition music is available now, so students will have plenty of time to prepare.

I also encourage students to audition for the District Seven Honor Band, which will come shortly after the beginning of the second semester. We have one of the best districts in the state and last year half of that honor band was made up of Lafayette students. There, too, students have a great opportunity to increase their musical education.

Mastering Musicianship

Speaking of increasing musical education, you should have received information about Mastering Musicianship, our program of individual instruction, and I would like to take this opportunity to speak to the value of private lessons. If your student has a private instructor you're happy with, please stay with him or her. If, however, you would like to begin private lessons, I encourage you to take advantage of M2. Ten half-hour lessons cost \$150 and all take place at Lafayette, which is quite convenient, especially during marching season. At lesson time, the student is excused from the marching field, goes inside and returns at the end of the half-hour. Thirty minutes



spent in private instruction is far more beneficial than the time they spend on the field, I can assure you! The refinement of talent for each individual student is one of the things that makes Lafayette Band special.

If you are considering participating in M2, please let us know as soon as possible so we can set the schedule for the coming semester.

Participate in fundraising

I'd like to briefly address the importance of fundraising to the Lafayette Band. You'll note that in the last couple of years, we've had to cut back on some things, which has stemmed a lack of money. We try to be sensitive to family budgets and still offer a top-quality program. I feel responsible to the people who have come before me to maintain and continue to grow this program and although we have had to make some painful cuts, we're still able to do that.

Despite those cuts, there are still efforts that can be maximized in order to make our fundraising efforts as successful as possible. The increase in bingo profits has been a real shining star; your participation

on Tuesday and Thursday nights is making bingo work. We know that we have big expenditures for uniforms and instruments on the horizon. Our sousaphones, for example, were purchased in 1990, making them older than any student who plays them! The sousas are an instrument that need to all be replaced at the same time at a cost of about \$60,000. We'll be able to live with them a while longer, but they need to be replaced before their age begins to have an effect on the program.

I feel certain that we will receive your best effort in fundraising this year. Despite our difficulties, I ask myself "can we still make it work?" Absolutely. Are the students still great? Absolutely. Can the Lafayette Band Association weather this difficult time? Absolutely.

I anticipate a great year and look forward to working with a fantastic group of student *and* their parents!

If you any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me any day, after 10:30 a.m. or via email.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles M. Smith, Director of Bands
Lafayette High School
381-3483 (School)
296-9257 (Home)
chuck.smith@fayette.kyschools.us





Today is a Birthday, I Wonder for Whom . . .



Sorry! We missed the July birthdays, so we're including them here. Hope your day was happy!

Jessica Abney	July 10
C.J. Balko	July 15
Chris Ballard	July 26
Travis Chaplin	July 4
Anecia Davis	July 3
Selena Garcia	July 4
Eryn Garrett	July 24
Tyler Hartz	July 10
Denise Henault	July 17
Amanda Horne	July 20
Carter Jarvis	July 5
Grant Lemon	July 19
Weitong Liu	July 13
Haley Potter	July 16
Leah Sharp	July 13
Stella Sharpe	July 25
Michael Tawasha	July 17

Zach Barnes	Aug. 29
Olja Bushbaher	Aug. 12
Jamie Highland	Aug. 1
Benjamin Howell	Aug. 18
Nora Imes	Aug. 19
Caitlin Justice	Aug. 19
Cassi Kline	Aug. 7

Claire Martin	Aug. 25
Darian May	Aug. 16
Chloe McIntosh	Aug. 31
Esther Putman	Aug. 28
Coleman Stivers	Aug. 15
Carl Trammel	Aug. 31
Katie Weitlauf	Aug. 15

End of Camp Performance and Cookout

The 2011 Parent Performance and "Grand Band Reunion" is scheduled for the last day of Band Camp, Aug. 5. This event has come to be the kick-off of the Band season, with families—both returning and alumni—coming together to see the progress the Band has made during three weeks of camp.

Almost as much a tradition as the performance is the GREAT food that is served by Columbia Express. Dinner includes a Columbia hamburger, toppings, baked beans, chips, a brownie and a drink for only \$6.

Families are encouraged to bring

their chairs and make it a real tailgating event.

The students eat at 5 p.m. (they'll take a short break after Band Camp) and the grills open to the families at 5:30.

Although you can pay at the grill, families are encouraged to make a reservation. The needed form can be accessed on the Band website, at www.lafayetteband.org. Follow the information about the about End of Camp Performance and Cookout and click on the "Reservation Form" link.

See you there!

When you make your next Lafayette Band payment, please include an extra \$10 for your membership in the Lafayette Band Association, if you haven't already done so. Dues must be paid every year and assure that you will be included in the insurance policy that we take out for all Band activities for the coming season. If you are a member of the Field Crew, Uniform Crew, Chaperone Crew or Food Crew, the policy of LBA requires that all crew members be paid LBA members in good standing.

From Tim Hall and the Chaperone Crew:

As football season grows closer, we're still in need of eight-ounce water bottles that the Band uses for warm up before performing at football games and in competition. Please drop off bottles to chaperones before or after Band practice at the blue building.

AND if you haven't yet turned in your participation and medical forms, we need them ASAP. Thanks for your cooperation!



FUNDRAISING NOTES

The first fundraiser sale of the year kicked off on July 18 with the distribution of discount cards at the LBA Parent Meeting. If you have not received your discount cards from Jim or Kim Burns, please contact them at whataski@insightbb.com.

The discount card is a remarkable value this year; just one use of a "buy one large pizza, get one free" from Domino's and you use your card FREE until August 2012.

Each Band member is asked to sell

15 cards to family and friends, calling attention to bargains from Joseph-Beth Booksellers, Newport Cleaners and, of course, Lexington landmark Parkette Drive-in, which is owned by Band parent Randy Kaplan and recently received a GREAT review in the *Herald-Leader*. Deadline to turn in card money is Aug. 18. If you choose not sell cards, the in-lieu-Of payment is \$50. Please remember that any cards you do not sell MUST be returned to Jim or Kim Burns

Coming Soon To A Backpack Near You

Lafayette Band's Cheese and Sausage sale kicks off on Aug. 17 when Band students will receive information and order forms during class.

Although we call it a cheese and sausage sale, items available also include candles, wrapping paper and gift items that will give you a head start on holiday shopping (it's never too early!)

Sharon Edwards is chairing the cheese and sausage sale this year; if you would like more information or would to volunteer your assistance, contact Sharon at 859-552-5497 or ccmominky@windstream.net.

Football Programs

Football season starts on Aug. 26 with a home game versus Bell County (Go General!) The production and sale of football programs is a fundraiser for the Band and we're recruiting folks to sell programs at Ishmael Stadium. Program salespeople are asked to report to the front entrance of the stadium (facing Reed Lane) at about 6:45 (tell the people selling tickets that you're on the sales crew) and you'll receive an apron and an area to cover. If you have a middle school Band student, they often enjoy helping. For more information, contact Peggy Gabriel, mgabriel@insightbb.com, 859-608-2936.

Bingo Needs You!

Have you committed to your bingo slots for the year? If not, call your section chairperson to reserve the times that you will work. We all rely on YOUR participation in fundraising through Bingo to keep your band payments in check!

Brass: Jill Richeson

Woodwind: Vivian Salley

Percussion and Color Guard: Gayla Webb

Board and Activity Chairs: Sara Maggard

Do you . . .

- Use GoodSearch as your search engine?
- Shop with your LBA Kroger gift card?
- Make on-line purchases with GoodShop?

These fundraisers are an easy way to benefit the Band.

For more information, see the Fundraising section of www.lafayetteband.org

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Come to the Lafayette "Grand" Band Reunion!

As we post this column, we find the Band more than half way through Band Camp! It's been a hot couple of weeks, but the conditioning and learning that have gone on until now will no doubt pay big dividends in September and October! Special kudos to those freshmen and first time marchers – and yes, the percussion and colorguard – who endured the heat the week of July 18!

To all of our LBA volunteers who have helped make Band Camp the success it has been – Chaperones, Food Crew, Field Crew, and Uniform Crew – a huge THANK YOU for your service!

The end of Band Camp brings the traditional Parent Performance. This year, we have shaken things up a bit in that we are reaching out to Band Alumni for the Lafayette "Grand" Band Reunion, a night for all Lafayette Band alums to return to campus and wish this year's edition of "The Pride of The Bluegrass" GOOD LUCK for the year ahead. Keeping these alumni relations intact is important to the future of the Band and we hope the reunion helps in the effort.

Many thanks to all of you who attended the Parent Meeting on July 18th! What great attendance! Hopefully, we will have just as many attendees on August 8. We promise this one won't be as long.

Two things are needed to keep a great, volunteer-run, non-profit like ours going – volunteers, of course, and money. In that vein, we sure hope that all of you are looking for a niche to fill for LBA. EVERYONE in this organization has skills that will benefit the group. Please, we want and need your help.

In regard to money, all of us should, at the minimum, have paid \$750 of our family payments by the end of July. Being timely with these payments is so important, particularly with expenses related to Band Camp and the rest of marching season. If you have questions about your account, please contact Jim or Kim Burns at lafayettebandaccounts@gmail.com.

By all reports from Jim and Kim, our first fundraiser of the season, discount cards, is going great! In our years associated with the Band, there has never been a time where LBA completed a fundraiser early. Could this be a first? Please watch the weekly e-news for details on turning in your discount card money.

What would our column be without a mention of bingo? Thanks to all who have worked bingo these last couple of months! We're doing very well so far this year, but we have to keep it going. If you have not scheduled your three to six bingo commitments for the year, please do so by

contacting your team leader: Vivian Salley (woodwinds), Jill Richeson (brass), Gayla Webb (colorguard and percussion) or Sara Maggard (board and committee chairs).

These are exciting times for the Lafayette Band! Let's do all WE can to make sure Mr. Smith and the kids have all they need to remain at that top level. PLEASE contact us with any questions or concerns. You can reach us at 277-7893 or jsmag@insightbb.com.

Thanks so much, best of luck with back to school, and GO LAFAYETTE!

Joey and Sara Maggard
LBA Presidents

Taking Your Student Home With You? PLEASE READ THIS!

When the competition season starts, you may find that you would like to take your student home instead of having him or her return to Lafayette. This is perfectly acceptable, but please follow these procedures to assure that chaperones are able to keep track of 200 students (give or take a few).

- Speak with Mr. Smith or Dr. Magee, face-to-face, and tell them of your intention. THIS IS REQUIRED.
- Sending the information, early in the week, is a good idea, but not required.
- If you are planning to take another student, not your own, with you that information must come from the other student's parent in writing.
- Make certain that arrangements have been made for loading your student's instrument AND UNLOADING UPON RETURN TO LAFAYETTE.
- Be prepared to show identification when you take your student.

Thanks for your cooperation and understanding on this issue.

