

Pride of the Bluegrass

The News of the Lafayette Band

From the Director's Desk



Charles M. Smith

Challenges met, challenges faced

It's hard to believe that the 2010-11 school year is coming to a close, isn't it? But in the next few days we will see the Class of 2011 cross the stage at Rupp Arena, move their tassels and join thousands before them who proudly call themselves graduates of Lafayette High School. I commend their efforts and wish them all the best during their college years and beyond.

As we bid farewell to the seniors, we also look ahead to the summer months and make plans for the coming marching season. Although the particulars will not be revealed until class meetings on July 7, I've heard some intriguing rumors about the 2011 show. I haven't confirmed or denied anything but have told students they'll find out soon enough!

Turning to more serious issues, the coming year will be a critical time for the Band's fundraising efforts. The 2011-12 budget includes a "sinking fund" for both uniforms and instruments. Both funds have been set up as a line item on the budget so we'll have money set aside for expenses we know are coming up. We still think of our uniforms as new, but they have a life of about five to seven years and we since reached that five year mark at the end of the 2010 marching season, it is prudent to make plans to replace uniforms, as needed. Thanks to Cindy Blanton and the uniform crew for the care and repair they provide for our uniforms, holding off that expenditure as long as possible.

We also need to make plans

to replace our sousaphones, which I estimate will cost in the neighborhood of \$65,000. We last replaced sousas in 1990, so those horns are several years older than any of the students who play them! Because sousas make such a visual statement for the band, we must replace all of them at the same time.

We're also looking down the road to replacing percussion equipment, which will cost far less than the sousas, but will still be about \$10,000. I believe that making these purchases is essential to maintaining the top-notch quality of the Lafayette Band.

That quality was in clear evidence at the District Seven Festival at Scott County High School on April 29. The Concert Band, Symphonic Band and Wind Symphony all received distinguished rankings from festival judges. Well done, students!

You continued your distinguished performances at the Jazz Band Concert and at the Spring Concert at the Singletary Center on May 18. Thanks for your hard work and dedication throughout the year and at the end of the year concerts.

We'll all enjoy a little down time after school gets out, but we still have several activities and events throughout the summer months. The Asbury Leadership Workshop we've sponsored each summer for the last several years is planned for June 15. I highly encourage students to participate in the day's activities which help the Band to begin the necessary process of bonding.

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Dates to Remember

- May 30 No School (Memorial Day)
- June 1-2 Graduation Rehearsal
- June 4 Graduation, Rupp Arena, 2 p.m.
- June 13 Summer Music Academy
- June 13 Core Strength Training, 5 p.m.
(continues June 20, 27, July 11)
- June 13 Summer Band, 7 p.m.
(continues June 20, 27, July 11)
- June 15 Leadership Workshop
- June 27 LBA Board, location TBA
- July 7 Class meetings, 11 a.m.
- July 7 Big Brother/Big Sisters Social
- July 18 LBA Parent meeting, 7 p.m.
- July 18-22 First Timer Marchers' Camp
- July 25-Aug. 5 2011 Band Camp

**Congratulations
to Ryan Marsh,
Director of
Lafayette Choirs,
for his selection
as the Kentucky
Music Educators
Association, District
Seven, Teacher of
the Year**

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Challenges

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The students at Asbury College always do a fine job conducting the workshop and I hope those who attend this year will learn as much as others have learned in the past.

I also encourage students to participate in core strength training and Summer Band Academy, which will be held on June 13, 20, 27 and July 11. You should have received a mailing with information about summer events, but if you missed it, information is available on the Band website, www.lafayetteband.org.

Summer band gives students an opportunity to keep skills sharp. I encourage all students to also devote some time to practicing throughout the weeks of the summer. It's really hard on your lips if you don't touch a horn for several weeks, then pick it up to play for several hours on the first day of Band Camp.

Thanks to everyone who made the Honors Banquet and Ceremony on May 1 such a success. I always enjoy seeing the students in a different kind of environment. Congratulations to everyone who was honored on that day (see page 5) and special thanks to the field crew for their contribution and to Ann Cowan and the food crew for the preparations they made.

As you may have heard, the KMEA state championship will be held at Western Kentucky

University on October 30. This will be a two-night trip for us; we will spend Friday, October 29 at the Holiday Inn in Bowling Green and Saturday night in the gym at Greenwood High School. Since Bowling Green is in the central time zone, it will be far too late to begin a four-hour drive to Lexington after awards, change-out and loading. Please mark your calendars now for that last weekend in October; I think we can look forward to a great ride in the season to come!

Beth Potter has distributed the order form for the 2010-11 DVD, which we will order when we have an approximate idea of the demand. Please return the form if you would like to receive a DVD.

Again, I'd like to thank everyone for their efforts during the year we've just completed. Enjoy your break and I look forward to seeing students during Summer Band or at the class meetings on July 7.

If you have any questions as we close out this school year or about the upcoming academic year or marching season, please do not hesitate to contact me. Just don't ask me about the 2011 show!

Respectfully submitted,

Charles M. Smith
Director of Bands, Lafayette High
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When you make your next Lafayette Band payment, please include an extra \$10 for your membership in the Lafayette Band Association. Your dues payment assures 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 policies of LBA requires that all crew members be LBA members in good standing.



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and music education!***

AMR Management Services helps the band to maintain its award winning website, which keeps Band families apprised of the latest information concerning upcoming activities and events. If you are interested in community sponsorship, or know a business that would be interested, please contact Beth Potter, 948-3859, pottermom@insightbb.com

Lafayette Band is an unparalleled experience

It is such an honor to have been elected Co-Presidents of the Lafayette Band Association for 2011-2012! A heartfelt thank you to all for this vote of confidence.

Our perspective on Band is like many of yours ... we're Bandies. We actually met in Band some 30 years ago. Look at the people who were in our wedding, look at our Christmas card list or our Facebook friends and what do you find? Band people. Needless to say, to be placed in a leadership position with LBA, with its 70 years of tradition, is a big deal for us!

This will be the eighth year out of the last nine for our family to be involved with the Lafayette Band and we are as excited now as we were in year one. A group of VERY talented upper classmen and one of the largest freshman classes in recent memory point to a great year for the Pride. We have an incoming Board that reflects years of experience and possesses diverse talents—a group that is ready to work with the passion and dedication that this organization needs and deserves. Finally, in Mr. Smith, Dr. Magee—and all of the instructors associated with the Band—we have an unparalleled group that epitomizes the word “professional.”

We welcome our incoming parents! Be ready for a life-changing experience for your family—there is nothing quite like being a part of the Lafayette Nation. Remember that this is a volunteer-based organization. All of you bring skills and talents that can benefit this organization. Please find a way to share your skills and talents. Please get involved. In short, WE NEED YOU!

The purpose of the Lafayette Band Association is to provide support—both moral and financial—to the Band and to work with the director to assure that the Band is brought to and kept at the highest

possible level of performance and musicianship. Rest assured that this is what will guide our service in the coming year. Making this a fun experience for all involved is very important to us as well.

Finally, a special thanks to our predecessors, Lori and Randy Gonzalez, who have left us big shoes to fill. Randy and Lori, we are grateful for your tireless service. You will be missed!

Thank you all so much and GO LAFAYETTE!

Joey and Sara Maggard
LBA Co-Presidents

Bingo!

The launch of Thursday bingo in April was very successful. Although the first week had fewer players than usual, by the second week, the numbers were up, with many players coming for both the Tuesday and Thursday sessions.

Special thanks to folks who are training new workers on both Tuesday and Thursday nights, especially to Maria Hctor whose organizational and planning skills have ensured a smooth transition with the departure of many senior parents who were dedicated bingo volunteers.

Darryl Duncan continues to serve as bingo chair person and can answer questions you might have.

LBA is asking every family to work at bingo at least three night per year—of course more would be appreciated, as well! To sign up to work, please contact Vivian Salley (woodwind families), Jill Richeson (brass), Gayla Webb (color guard and percussion) or Sara Maggard (board of directors and committee chairs).

For more information, contact Darryl, darryl.duncan@insightbb.com





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



Maggie Boland	June 16	BB Emerson	June 13	Reese Mittan	June 3
Megan Brown	June 9	Heather Feese	June 11	Hannah Ramsey	June 19
Sarah Cooley	June 10	Alyssa Fugette	June 2	Emily Rayens	June 1
David Crocetti	June 11	Clay Gonzalez	June 3	Nathan Rayens	June 16
Jon Crocetti	June 17	Susanne Hctor	June 22	Barrett Salley	June 2
Wes Drawbridge	June 10	Emily Lake	June 10	Hannah Sturgill	June 16

Students Recognized at Annual Banquet and Honors Ceremony

The Lafayette Band Association recognized the Class of 2011 and distributed bars, letters and awards to the Band at its annual Banquet and Honors Ceremony at Calvary Baptist Church on Sunday, May 1. The banquet capped off a full weekend for students who also participated in the KMEA District Seven Festival on Friday, Apr. 29 and the Lafayette Prom on Apr. 30.

The Senior Farewell was given by Hayley Collins and Jordan Evans, who began their remarks by thanking the Band moms who work on the food and uniform crews. “Without them, we would be hungry and naked,” Hayley said.

The two reminisced about their four years, beginning with their freshman year, comparing the Band to a family that includes a “kooky uncle and a cool grandpa—Mr. Larkin and Mr. Warren. And course, Mom and Dad—Doc and Mr. Smith,” a comment that was met with huge applause.

As sophomores, the class related to the “boy meets girl” story of *Allure* and “we learned that if you love what you do, you’ll never work a day in your life,” Jordan said.

The Class of 2011 was called to step into leadership roles as juniors because of the small size of the Class of 2010 and as seniors they drew on those leadership skills in October, when “we got better and we got better fast!” Jordan said. The two displayed their their KMEA medals and of the 2010 medal, said, “The ribbon might be yellow, but this is still a blue ribbon band!”

Jordan and Hayley concluded their reflection saying, “Mr. Smith told us it wouldn’t be easy, but he never told us how hard it would be to say



Seniors Hayley Collins (left) and Jordan Evans give the Senior Farewell at the LBA Honors Banquet. Band director Chuck Smith (right) enjoys the address.

‘Goodbye.’”

Hayley, with sister drum majors Emma Jackson, Ashley Hartz and Ashton Howard were recognized and gave gifts from the Band to Mr. Smith and Dr. Magee, including a box of Mr. Smith’s favorite snack, Cheez-Its, autographed by all the seniors.

Awards and recognition were given to the students who participated in the KMEA All-State band, jazz band and orchestra and to those who were selected for the District Seven honor band. “There was a total of 150 pieces in the District Seven band and fifty of them, one-third of the band, was from Lafayette,” Mr. Smith said.

Megan Warner was recognized for her leadership as captain of the color guard; Alex Alverson was honored as outstanding member of the guard and Miku Kono was named outstanding new member.

Class awards went to Danny Alford (freshman); Chloe McIntosh and Joseph Wrightson (sophomore); Stella Sharpe and Emily Wilson

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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, which keeps your band payments in check!

Brass: Jill Richeson

Woodwind: Vivian Salley

Percussion and Color Guard: Gayla Webb

Board and Activity Chairs: Sara Maggard

Received a statement?

If you did not get a statement for Band payments for 2011-12, please check your spam filter. If that's not the problem contact Jim or Kim Burns lafayettebandaccounts@gmail.com and let them know that you have not received your statement. Thanks!



**Be sure to visit one of our two Lexington locations,
The Plaza at Fayette Mall & Center Court on UK's Campus.
For catering information please call 859-396-2882.**

Honors Banquet

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(junior) and Maria Kidd (senior).

The Louis Armstrong Jazz Award to the outstanding member of the Lafayette Jazz Ensemble was given to Chris Baldani. The Jim Taylor Spirit Award, given in memory of Jim Taylor (Class of 1977), to the student who best embodied the Pride of the Bluegrass, was given to Jordan Evans. The John Philip Sousa Award, the Band's highest recognition, given to the senior who represented the highest ideals during their years at Lafayette, was shared by Clay Gonzalez and Meredith Burns.

Before the crowd of 275 enjoyed Linda Pugh's visual tribute to the season, Mr. Smith thanked the Class of 2011 for their years in the Band, telling them, "Forever you will be the Pride of the Bluegrass."



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

LBA Parent Meeting

Mon. July 18, 7 p.m.

LHS Cafeteria

Join us for the kick-off of the season. The meeting will include LOTS of information, including the reveal of the 2011 show and a volunteer fair.