



Director's Report



FALL MUSICAL: Congratulations to the many students that were involved in our annual fall musical. This full length – straight from the Broadway Musical called “Big Fish” was a hit. The band (pit orchestra) did a great job. Our HS students (and along with Mr. Williams and two Univ. of Indianapolis students) worked very hard and it showed. They sounded like professionals. Congrats to the many other Fine Arts students involved. Decatur Central should be VERY proud of this production.

HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR: This was our 15th year to host this wonderful event that included all Bands, along with all Choirs and our Drama department. The event looks to have been a big success. Students worked very hard and put a lot of time into the event through rehearsals these past few weeks. We had three wonderful shows (and hope to be able to add school convocations again next year). A special thanks to ALL of the Band/Guard Boosters who helped to collect tickets and do our canned food drive. Wonderful job. Another special thanks to Mr. Crowder who did a tremendous amount of work all week to get the groups ready without my help (Covid sucks) and conducted all of the bands!



Depauw Jazz Festival - Our 2 jazz ensembles attended the Depauw University Jazz festival last month. The bands got to hear the Count Basie Band perform and received excellent compliments from all the evaluators.

Mr. Cox inducted into Phi Beta Mu

Phi Beta Mu is the highest honorary international band director's fraternity. It was organized to encourage the building of better bands and the development of better musicians in schools throughout the world and to foster deeper appreciation of good music and more widespread public interest.

To be selected a member of Phi Beta Mu the director selected must:

- Currently holds a position as conductor of a consistently superior band.
- Demonstrated leadership in the profession by contributing to the progress of bands.

- Hold office or important responsibility at the state, regional, or national level, with publications, compositions, dissertations or outstanding performances.
- Established a reputation for personal character that is ethically and morally above reproach.

THE BAND CALENDAR: This is a valuable piece of info to have. Dates for both Winter Guards, both Pep Bands, Winter Percussion, Indoor Winds etc. are all posted on the CHARMS WEBSITE!!! Please feel free to visit online at our website: www.dchsbands.org to get the link! The code to look at the calendar is decaturcentralband.

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE: We have a number of students that have entered a solo or ensemble. Last year we had a great number of students participate WITH GREAT SUCCESS. This is a wonderful opportunity and helps students to grow in their musical knowledge. This contest will take place on **January 29th at Decatur Middle School!** More info will be available once we get it from the ISSMA office. We will also present a CHAMBER MUSIC concert with all the Solo and Ensemble performers here at DCHS the night before the contest **(Jan. 25th at 7:00pm)**!



INDOOR WINDS: This type of “indoor marching band” is really catching on and becoming quite popular around the United States. The music is being composed by Criag Fitzpatrick. and the Drill will be written by a new Designer from Kentucky. Mr. Crowder will be the Director of this group. Stay tuned and check out our progress as we build this group. We currently have 43 members after a highly competitive audition this year! The show this year is going to be memorable - it is all about RUSSIA. Students will have some rehearsals during Winter break so please be sure to check your schedule.



WINTER GUARD: The 2021-2022 Winter Guards (VARSITY and the MIDDLE SCHOOL GUARDS) are the 3 groups we are running this year. Each Winter Guard has been hard at work getting started on learning a new competitive show. We are very excited about the students that are in these groups and look forward to a great contest season! Matt Scott is the Director of the Cadet Guard and Regional A programs with assistance from a great staff. We will have a new director of the Varsity Guard this season and are still in the process of getting many questions answered. We are committed to making sure the students at the HS have a show they can be proud of and enjoy. Makayla and Nick are going to be around to help with this transition. Stay tuned for the contest lists.

WPE: The Winter Percussion Ensemble is now off and running – we have an excellent group that will be led by Mr. Jared Staples. Please make sure all band fees **are current**

and the uniform fee of \$125 is paid by the end of this month. No uniforms will be ordered unless we receive a down payment.

PEP BAND – THE BLUE AND GOLD: Pep Band has begun!! We have changed the format of this group and it will consist mainly of members from our Two Jazz Ensembles. ALL are invited to attend. We will be trying to align the Theme of the games with the student section. So far this season we have completed 2 games. The games were fun. Check your schedule for upcoming games.



BOOSTER FEE COLLECTIONS: The executive team will be helping me to collect fees from parents that still owe from this past marching band season. We are once again behind in collecting these fees. Parents will continue to be contacted until the fees are paid. **WE MUST HAVE FEES PAID FOR STUDENTS TO MARCH.** ANYONE that has made special arrangements must keep us informed if changes are being made.

WGI PROPOSALS: Mr. Cox submitted several requests to the school board for our Percussion, Winds, and Varsity Guard to compete in WGI regionals and NATIONALS. Each of these requests were approved.

WINTER SHOWCASE - March 25th, 2022 @ 7:00pm All 5 winter groups will be involved in this special performance. We will sell tickets at the door for \$5.00 (No dinner will be served)

OTHER ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR:

Remember:

1. **HOST Winter Guard SHOW MARCH 19th** We will need over 50 parents and 75 students to run and manage this important contest!
2. **HOSTING PERCUSSION Divisional Finals and State Prelims CONTEST FEB. 26** We will need at least the same number of parents and students to work this event!

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR BAND/GUARD STUDENTS

APPS for the phone or tablet!

SMART MUSIC! is an award-winning interactive music software that provides the ideal practice environment. With a subscription to SmartMusic, students have unlimited access to the world's largest accompaniment library for all ages and skill levels, which includes thousands of pieces of music.

Students open an assignment from their teachers, which contains customized instructions for playing a particular piece of music.

TONAL ENERGY APP: (Tuner, Metronome, visual reference, and a whole lot more)

PRIVATE LESSONS: The best way to improve your individual skills!

NEW GUARD GLOVES / Rehearsal gear / new equipment

AND.....ALWAYS --- REEDS – Mouthpieces – Sticks * We would be happy to tell you the brand and strength. Please let us help you!



Remember – you will get what you pay for in regards to musical items!

**Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!**