Dear Band and Color Guard Members;

I know it’s hard to start thinking about band camp now, but it will be here before you know it. I hope you are as excited to get started as I am. Both the “Traditions” and “Pride” bands have great shows this fall and I am sure we will continue to build on our successes of the past. The 2016 season will feature really cool shows for both bands. The Pride show, entitled 
*Scheherazade, Words 2 Live By* is an Arabian show based on the story of 1001 Nights. The Traditions show, *Band of Heroes*, is based on themes from popular superheroes movies. I am looking forward to another great season for both bands.

**A point of clarification…**

*The TRADITIONS Band is EVERY band student. The PRIDE band consists ONLY of those who auditioned and were selected to that group. Please read this letter carefully for information pertaining to BOTH bands.*

Please look at the schedule carefully to make sure you know when to attend camp. Our camp schedule looks like this:

**Monday-Tuesday**

**July 18-19**

Pride Drumline Camp – This camp is only for members of the Pride Drumline (Battery and Front Ensemble)!

8:00am – 4:00pm – This is a TWO DAY camp this year.

This camp is for all Pride percussionists. It is designed to focus on technique development, and to work on show music as a whole line. All members of the Pride percussion section are expected to attend. Students should bring all warm-ups and show music (e-mailed to their school accounts) in a 3-ring binder with clear sheets, and wear comfortable clothes and tennis shoes. Warm-up exercises should be memorized by this time, and show music should be playable. All percussion students (Pride and Traditions) are required to pay a one-time fee of $50 to cover heads, sticks, mallets, and other consumable items. This fee is due by the end of camp, and should be written on a separate check (cash is fine as well).

**Wednesday, July 20**

Leadership camp – *This camp is open to ALL juniors and seniors. Section leaders and Drum Majors are required to attend.*

8:00am – 4:00pm – This is a ONE DAY camp this year.

**Leadership Camp** has been designed to help students develop the skills necessary to be effective and positive peer leaders. Due to enrollment limitations, only juniors and seniors who signed up before school was out in May can participate. The camp will last ONE day this year, July 20, 2016 in the high school bandroom. This event will begin at 8:00am and end around 4:00pm. We have much to do during this day so please be on time. This camp is a great experience for everyone involved as we will learn how to lead by example and how to work constructively with our peers. All leadership camp members will be expected to attend the Freshman Informational meeting on Wednesday, July 20, 2016 at 7:00pm in the Wilson Center. At this time you will be introduced to the freshmen and their parents.

**Freshman and First Time Marcher meeting.** An informational meeting for all freshmen and first time marchers and their parents will take place on **Wednesday, July 20, 2016** at 7:00pm in the Wilson Center. Please plan on attending this very important meeting. You should come to the back of the high school and use the band room door to enter the building. The band room is located on the west side of the high school facing the baseball fields. Park in the parking lot behind the school which faces the baseball fields.
Thursday, July 21

Freshman Camp
8:00am - 4:00pm each day

Freshman Camp will be Thursday, July 21 from 8:00am – 4:00pm. Students should report to the high school bandroom using the back entrance which is located on the west side (football stadium side) of the building.

Friday, July 22

Pride Band Marching Bootcamp
8:00am – 4:00pm – This is a ONE DAY camp, but VERY important!!!!!!
In an attempt to improve our marching, we made significant changes to our marching style this past year. We need to continue the refinement process and revisit some of the more significant changes. Additionally, the demands of drill written by a DCI drill writer requires us to spend extra time preparing ourselves for the challenges of the drill we will encounter this season. The harder we work now, the more productive our season will be. Take this day seriously!!

Full Camp sessions for both bands start Monday, July 25, 2016 and will last until Friday, August 5, 2016. ONLY the “Pride” Band meets during the first week. The first week we will start each day at 7:00am and conclude around 4:00pm. Please see the daily schedule below. During the second week, both the “Pride” and “Traditions” bands rehearse. Please refer to the daily schedule below for your exact report times. “Traditions” band students DO NOT need to attend the “Pride” band playing rehearsals during this week. In an effort to prevent the students from being outside too long, careful consideration has been given to the amount of outdoor practice used during camp. You will see on the schedule below what type of practice (indoor or outdoor) will be taking place during each camp session. Nonetheless, bring sunscreen and a thermos of water for the daytime rehearsals. Mosquito repellant is HIGHLY suggested for the evening rehearsals. The days will be hot so dress accordingly regardless of the amount of time we spend outside. We need to get our entire show on the field, work on street marching, and polish our musical performance skills all in this short amount of time. Please remember this is a marching camp. Do not wear sandals or flip-flops. Wear tennis shoes and socks. Tee shirts and shorts are required...no sports bras or swim suits.

July 25-29  Pride Camp - Week 1 (see daily schedule)
7:00am – 12:00pm “Pride” marching and field rehearsal - outside
12:00pm – 1:00pm Lunch Break
1:00pm – 4:00pm “Pride” playing rehearsal/sectionals/fundamentals practice - inside

Aug. 1-5  Full Camp - Week 2 (see daily schedule)
1:00pm – 3:00pm “Pride” playing rehearsal - inside
3:00pm – 3:30pm Break
3:30pm – 5:30pm “Traditions” playing rehearsal - inside
5:30pm – 6:30pm Dinner Break
6:30pm – 9:15pm “Traditions” marching rehearsal - outside
6:30pm – 7:30pm Fundamentals
7:30pm – 8:45pm Field Show practice
8:45pm – 9:15pm Street marching and fundamentals review

Aug. 9  6:00pm – 9:00pm Pride Band Evening Clinic
Aug. 11  6:00pm – 9:00pm Pride Band Evening Clinic

Members of the Pride Band....Please READ this information carefully.
BIG changes await you in 2016! I am extremely excited about this season. We have a new design staff for 2016. Our new design team has created an outstanding show that will really raise the bar for us. The new team, headed by Mr. Ron Hardin, brings an incredible level of experience to the Pride Band. Mr. Hardin is the Visual Caption Supervisor for the DCI World Champion Carolina Crown. Mr. Hardin’s design team includes his wife, Molly, who will be designing and choreographing our color guard routines and Brett Lindsey, Carolina Crown Body Tech. Specialist. For 2016, you will have a world class drill and visual package. It’s time to step up our individual performance levels to match the show which has been designed exclusively
for Platte County. You MUST have the music mastered before camp in order to focus all your attention on the visual demands of this show during camp!

**ALL MUSIC MUST BE MEMORIZED BY SEPTEMBER 3, 2016.** On Saturday September 3, 2016 the Pride Band will have an ALL DAY rehearsal and memorization testing session. This day will start at 8:00am. We will rehearse between 8:00am and 12:00 noon. At noon you will be excused for lunch. Starting at 1:00pm, ALL members of the Pride Band MUST play the entire show from memory for one of the directors. Once you play your memorization test you are free to go. If you do not pass the memorization test, you will be assigned after school memorization sessions with one of the directors. You must continue to attend these sessions until you pass the full memorization test. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Remember, what you get out of any situation is in direct relation to how much effort you put into it. The more you put into an activity, the more reward you will get out of it, both individually and collectively. Look at this day as one final opportunity to prepare for greatness this season. We have an awesome show. With this program, we will be taking another BIG step in our development as a competitive marching band. I have HIGH expectations for each of you. I hope you have high expectations for yourself.

This season we will have five Thursday night rehearsals. These rehearsals will give us an opportunity to bring in additional experts to help us polish and refine our show. Please mark the following dates and times on your calendar. Make arrangements NOW with employers and family members for these dates.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 25</td>
<td>6:00pm – 8:15pm</td>
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<td>September 8</td>
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<td>September 22</td>
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<td>September 29</td>
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<td>October 6</td>
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**Members of the Traditions Band....**

New challenges await you this year. We will learn some new music for each home football game and will feature different people and groups. Last fall we traveled to Central Methodist University to compete in their Band Day competition. The competition featured a parade competition in the morning followed by a field competition in the afternoon. The year we will travel to the Odessa Marching Invitational, which uses the same format for Central Methodist. The Traditions Band will compete in the parade competition that morning and the Pride Band will participate in the field portion of the festival that afternoon. This will be a great way to showcase everything our program has going for it. We will be able to show off our size as well as our versatility in both the street and field competitions. This will be an exciting and event filled day. But please remember, success is not an accident; it is the result of careful and deliberate preparation. I challenge every member of the Traditions Band to rise to the challenge of being great. I believe you can do this...do you believe????

One of our primary goals this year will be to have ONE work ethic regardless of which band you are in. **The challenges and demands are different for each of our marching bands but the work ethic will not be!!!!!** Be prepared to work hard and be dedicated to constantly improving. If you do, you will reap the benefits. If you need to miss any of the days during camp, please call Dr. Jones at the school at 858-2822, ext. 1238 and leave a message. **Please do not call the directors’ cell phones.** Be sure to explain the nature of your absence as well as the times and dates you will miss. We share the fields with several other groups this summer so we must make the most of the time we have allotted to us. For that reason, everyone needs to be in attendance at every rehearsal.

**OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW!!!!!!**

**Uniform Fitting**

Uniform fittings will take place during the second week of camp (Aug. 1-5) in the mornings. You will be assigned a day to arrive and get fitted. ALSO, if you need shoes, gloves, socks, or show tee shirts these items will be ordered when you are fitted for a uniform. Members of the MPA will be on hand to measure you to ensure that you get the correct sizes on everything you need. Refer to the fees schedule for a complete list of the items you must pay for. As for the show tee shirts, EACH band will have its own show tee shirt this year. The “Pride” band tee shirt will be worn at all away competitions. The “Traditions” tee shirt will be worn under the uniform at all home football games. Parents can order additional t-shirts for themselves. Please refer to the enclosed order form. **Please bring the enclosed fee schedule, along with ALL paperwork in this packet, with you to your uniform fitting day.**
End of Camp Potluck
The camp season will conclude with a potluck for all band members and their families on Friday, August 5, 2016 at Platte City Middle School. The event starts at 6:00pm. Information of what to bring is included with this packet. Please bring your entire family. This is a great time to renew friendships or make new friends and get ready for another great season of marching band. We have a large freshman class. Let’s welcome them into our band family in true Platte County style.

Paperwork... There is always paperwork to turn in
When you arrive for your uniform fitting, you must bring with you ALL required paperwork and fees. You will need to bring a completed and signed Medical Information form, and Handbook Sign-off Form. This year you will need to download, print and sign these forms. You will need a current physical on file. The new form can be obtained on-line from the school’s website. If you need help finding these files online, follow the steps below. If you have questions about the status of your physical call the high school office at 858-2822. Physicals can be obtained through Heartland Health in Platte City. A separate Activities Eligibility document was included with your high school enrollment information.

Attached to this letter is a fee sheet for the various items you will need for the season plus other expenses. Please bring all required paperwork, along with the appropriate amount of money to your uniform fitting. Tee shirts will again be available this year and may be ordered at this time.

You will see on the fees schedule an MPA away meal and water fee. This fee is $25.00 for members of the “Traditions” Band or $45.00 for members of the “Pride” Band. You will pay either $25.00 for the “Traditions” Band or $45.00 for the “Pride” Band, not both. Fees for the two bands are different because the “Pride” Band travels much more extensively during the season. Please make your check out to the MPA.

Your reputation is VISIBLE
The reputation of the Platte County Band program continues to expand and evolve. The directors are proud of our past accomplishments and challenge each and every student to continue to give their best because it is through continued dedication, hard work, and commitment that even greater things will take place. We are very proud to announce that Platte County has been selected as one of only two band programs in the state of Missouri to be granted the right to have its own affiliation ring. The ring, which will be available to entering juniors and seniors, will give our students the ability to show their pride in their band program by wearing a ring custom designed for the Platte County band. Information on the affiliation ring program is available from the band office.

This year, we continue to write new chapters in the history of the PC bands, YOUR history. Enjoy what’s left of the summer; we look forward to seeing you soon.

Dr. Jones  Dr. Bonsignore  Mr. Bailey  Mr. Gordon  Mrs. Frame

How to Access on-line forms...
Log on to plattecountyschooldistrict.com
Click on Schools and select Platte County High School
Select Academics from the top menu, then select Instrumental Music
Select Dr. Jones under Instrumental Music
Click on General Information from the left column
Download and Sign Marching Band Medical Form and Handbook Sign-Off Form