



The Pride of Shaker Heights

Dear Shaker Band Members & Families,

We hope that this letter finds you enjoying your summer and resting up for another exciting year with “The Pride of Shaker Heights.” While it may be July, it is time to begin planning for the 2012-2013 school year and all that it promises to bring. Along with a new turf field to march on and a new football conference, we will also be fielding the largest band in Shaker history, at this point around 400 members, which makes us the largest band in Ohio and one of the largest in the nation! While those items are fantastic, we also have an amazing trip to look forward to this spring as we travel to historic Istanbul, Turkey and make several stops, including the ancient sites of Troy, Pergamon and Ephesus, and the beautiful ports of Canakkale and Kusadasi. Throughout the year, we will be setting and maintaining the highest standards for our students as we prepare to not only introduce a new set of football fans to “The Pride of Shaker Heights,” but also as we get ready to travel the globe as ambassadors for our school and our country.

The best way to get the most out of this exciting year is to be sure to **stay informed**. Be sure to read all of the information in this packet, sign up for email updates on the shakerbands.org blog, and “like” the “Official Shaker Bands Page” on Facebook. We also have a new Twitter account, so you can follow us @TheShakerBands.

Student leadership will be a critical part to the overall success of the Shaker Band this year. We will again have five field commanders; Leighton Albrecht, Ife Claytor, and A.J. Yule will be returning and they will be joined by Caroline Diederich and Gala Hughley. All five had excellent auditions and are excited to be heading off to clinics over the course of the summer to prepare. We have also received a number of marching band squad leader applications from those who returned them before the end of school. **We are still in need of squad leaders**, so all upperclassmen who have not yet turned in an application are encouraged to go to the shakerbands.org website, print one off, and return it with the other forms included in this packet. With such a large band, the directing staff will be expecting our student leaders to step up and lead by example both on and off the field and throughout the concert band season.

We have taken steps to reduce the size of this packet so that it is not as overwhelming in terms of information, nor will it be as expensive to print and mail. We have included a checklist on the following page to help you get organized for the coming year. Be sure to also take time and review the Shaker Band guidelines and expectations for both the concert and marching band seasons. Honors Credit forms can be found on the shakerbands.org website, with more information to follow at the start of the school year and Open House. Lastly, **please consider supporting the Shaker Band Boosters** financially and by volunteering to help as your schedule permits. We directors owe much of the success of this band program to the strength of the Band Boosters organization, so please consider helping in any way that you can.

We are looking forward to an awesome year. If you have any questions, we will be checking email (clemens_j@shaker.org and pocaro_a@shaker.org) and phone messages (216-295-4233) throughout the summer and will be back in the office full time starting the week of July 30. Marching instruments for those who use school instruments will be available beginning the week of August 6. Have a great rest of your summer and see you in August!

Musically Yours,

Mr. Clemens, Mr. Pocaro &
The Shaker Band Staff