



HOME OF THE BLUE DEVILS

DAVENPORT CENTRAL

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DAVENPORT CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, DAVENPORT, IOWA

Music Department Newsletter

MUSIC DEPT. PULLS TOGETHER

With the arrival of two new band directors, the five member music faculty of Central High School is complete. While the question of who will lead the band is answered, other questions regarding the response of students and faculty to these and other changes began to be asked. Will our music students cope positively with all the changes that come with a different teaching chemistry? Will the impact of the new schedule produce lower quality performances and scores at BOA as many have feared? Will the unifying efforts to consolidate the parent's groups, vocal department and band/orchestra, result in a new CHS Music Parents Association?

"Saying 'this will be a huge year' is an understatement," said Fred Morden, Head of the CHS Music Department. "More will be asked and expected from faculty, students, and their parents this year. But, then again, this is Central High School. Working hard is what we do here."

What will it take to make this year a success?

From the Music Faculty:

Mr. Morden explained that a flexible schedule that responds to the changing needs of each performing group will take cooperation and professional empathy from all music teachers. Consideration will need to be given to the new directors because of their late start with the district and the enormity of the job of getting the band up and running, creating a show, teaching it, and adjusting to a new school with new rules and new environment.

From the students:

Band students must adapt to the many changes the new directors will bring to their work. Students will need to adjust to different styles of marching, rehearsal techniques and expectations, personality quirks, and differences in their style of managing band business.

From the parents:

Parents will need to be supportive of both students and faculty as everyone works together to maintain a vibrant and successful music department. Parents will need to listen and ask questions concerning the rationale for different approaches to rehearsing, teaching, and planning. Most importantly, parent will need to reassure their students that change is a normal part of life and that with it comes new experiences, some good and some bad.

The challenges that face the CHS music department are great, but, great are also the chances for a new and different kind of success.

Mr. Morden seemed optimistic about the future, "This is a tough, talented, and resilient group at Central. Everyone knows what to do. We just have to decide to do it and get to work. We can do this"

ALL STATE AUDITION MUSIC SELECTED

All State Orchestra, Band, and Chorus auditions will take place on October 21st. The rehearsals are set for Nov. 16, 17, and 18 with the concert to take place on the evening of the 18th.

The All State ensembles are made up of outstanding high school musicians from Iowa. Students travel to Iowa State University in Ames, stay in hotels, and are bused to rehearsals on campus. Parents attend the concert and provide transportation back to their homes.

The music selected for All State is usually demanding but very rewarding, inspiring.

The audition requirements can be found at the end of the following "click" route.

www.ihsma.org

*Continue

*All State Music Festival

*2006 All State Fest-Gen. Audition and Concert Info.

*Click on your instrument

UPCOMING EVENTS

MB first FB Performance	Sept. 1
Show Choirs begin Rehs.	Sept. 5
All State Registration	Sept. 8
Homecoming Game	Sept. 21
Homecoming DANCE	Sept. 22
MB Compet. Mt. Pleas.	Sept. 23
Parent/Teacher Conf.	Sept. 27

CHOIR

By Brian Higdon

As the new school year begins, the vocal department is looking forward to the new beginning. Mr. Reese is excited to meet the new freshmen students and to see the growth of the older students.

This year will provide new opportunities for CHS voices, because it will have the whole ensemble present from the beginning. With the new schedule change, both vocal and orchestra teachers will have more time to work with all of the students and will be able to begin organizing into select groups sooner.

The show choir anticipates another exciting season. Central Singers, Inc. will be going to four new contests this year; and now Blue Vibes will be traveling with CSI to compete in the competitions also.

The All-State process has begun, and many Central students went to the All-State camp at North High School to start learning the music. Students continue to work on the music in preparation for the All-State auditions on Oct. 21st. The Freshmen will be working on Opus audition excerpts in class preparing for taped auditions.

BAND

By Jason Davis

The 2006 "Blue Devil" Marching Band members are working hard to put another outstanding show on the field. Starting August 1st, they have had band camp every morning under the direction of new directors Kendall Carrier and Aaron Stone. The band has worked very hard, with the goal of being a Bands of American Grand National Semi-Finalist keeping them going.

The band has had to overcome various obstacles, like new terminology and some changes to their style of marching technique, to the lack of a rehearsal field near the school. The band has made use of the school parking lot and Brady Street Stadium while the rehearsal field is unusable.

For their 2006 show, they will play the music of award-winning composer Sam Hazo. The first song is called "In Flight," which combines brass fanfares and soaring woodwind runs to capture the feel of a fighter pilot flying across the sky. "Each Time You Tell Their Story" is slower, more reflective, yet emotionally charged piece which honors the lives of those who have fallen in the line of duty. The final song, "Novo Lenio,"

was inspired by changes in a high school. The song is about a principal walking the halls of an old high school one last time before it is torn down, the demolition, and the new rebuilt high school.

When asked about what audiences should expect, Mr. Carrier said, "We have a great drill writer who is coming up with cool drill moves to enhance our music. It is our goal to have the audience see visually what they hear musically. The music changes moods a lot and has been written to both entertain and score well in the judging community."

Mr. Carrier says no props are planned for the show, the band will be competitive by out-playing and out-marching other band. He also said that the band will play songs during timeouts in order to fire up the crowd and the football team hoping to create a great "Blue Devil" home field advantage.

Mr. Carrier is excited to be here and continue the tradition of excellence at Central. "We have been very impressed with the students, parents, and administration. We believe that many things are in place to have a very successful future here at DCHS. A big thanks goes out to everyone who has helped to make this transition so smooth and our welcome so warm," said the new director of bands.

CENTRAL QUARTET REFORMS

Each year, four outstanding string players unite to form the Central Quartet. This season, Susan Korn and Brian Higdon, violins, Kaela Swarts, viola, and Max Mayfield, cello will continue the chamber music tradition at Central.

The players perform for a variety of civic groups, nursing homes, public events, parties, and weddings. Yes, they often get paid for their efforts, but sometimes donations are made on their behalf directly into the orchestra's activities account that pays for special events, celebrations, par-

ties, and purchase of string quartet music.

Because there is an interest in forming quartets by other students, more music will be needed. For example, Jane Wilson, violinist, is seeking other players to form a "Blue Devil Quartet." Interested in a little extra spending money? See Jane.

NEW CHS MUSIC DEPARTMENT CALENDAR AVAILABLE

Every rehearsal, concert, competition, audition, musical event, fund raiser, meeting, school dance, sports event, time, place and color coded by group. Well, not "every rehearsal..." but almost all of the important musical events are in the 2006-7 CHS Music Department Color Calendar. With the help of parents Julie Mar-

tens, Mary Wilson, and CHS Orchestra officers Susan Korn, Jane Wilson, Brian Higdon, and Julia Kiley, the popular annual log of musical activities is bigger, more colorful, and more detailed than last year. It will hang conveniently on your wall displaying each month with band events in fire engine red, vocal events in

royal blue, and orchestra events in teal blue. Dazzling color pictures of CHS performing groups are again included. (Maybe there's a picture of YOU) For only \$5, it is the easiest way to keep track of what is going on with our music department and your schedule of music activities. Perfect for grandparents and friends, buy more than one for a great gift. (See Mr. Morden)

ORCHESTRA

The CHS Symphony is adding two additional concerts to their schedule this year. The first added program will be a holiday concert in December that will feature seasonal music, soloists from the orchestra, and some fun with the audience. The proceeds will be used to open a new scholarship fund for graduating seniors who intend to pursue a career in music.

The second new concert is called the "First Annual Pops Scholarship Concert."

This program will also support scholarships for future college music students.

"Central produces a high number of students who continue their study of music in college. Helping these students is an investment in the future of music education." Mr. Morden explained.

The CHS Symphony will also perform it's traditional season in October, the Messiah in November, The Variety Show, Large Group Competition, and a trip,

tour, and concert in New York City. The orchestra will also play at graduation this year.

With a record of Division I rankings at Large Group Competition that stretches over 50 years and winning nearly every other competition they have entered, the CHS orchestra is broadening their work load to serve the interests and musical tastes of their school and community.

Mary Davis,
President of the
Band/Orch.
Association with
her update of info.

MOSTLY PARENT-TYPE INFO.

Deadline for MB uniform fee is Aug. 28. The uniform goes home when the fees are paid. Remember that MB uniform fees can not be paid through Birdies. If the Freshmen march, their first appearance will be at the Band Spectacular Oct. 3rd. Concerning concert dresses and tux shirts: Payment or payment plan must be set up by Sept. 12, or the student will be responsible for ordering their own at a higher price. If you have a financial need, please talk to your teacher soon.

Why a Band/Orch. Usage Fee?

Like many families, when we worked on our budget and balanced what we want against what we have, we were short. Some specifics:

- We would like to have Master Classes taught by specialists.
- We would like to offer a CD of students band an orchestra performances.
- We have an urgent need for new instruments. These are the ones that students rent from Central, basically the large instruments that are hard to move.

Practice Field

The concrete bids came in at \$130,000. Mr. Wernentin made the decision to sod the field for the present time. They are investigating other options within walking distance of Central.

Volunteers

A huge thank you goes out to all parents who have spent so many hours in all of the music departments at Central, or have pulled band trailers, or organized, worked or provided baked goods for the Ice Cream Social. Thanks for your willingness to serve! We couldn't have accomplished so much in such a short period of time without you.

Ice Cream Social

It didn't storm! YES. We had awesome music to listen to of Jazz, 9th grade band, the drumline, the new pep band music, and a look and listen to the music for the MB show. If you weren't there, you missed seeing Mr. Carrier in a Uganda M B helmet.

Entertainment books go on sale immediately.

CHS Music Dept. Newsletter

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NEED A PRIVATE MUSIC TEACHER?

Are private lessons required in order to participate in the CHS music program? Private lessons are a huge help in advancing students to higher levels of musicianship, but they are not required to participate

in the CHS music program.

But, the reality of learning to perform music is that a great deal of instrumental and vocal music requires the accumulation of skills, both physical and mental. And, there is one indisputable fact about those students

who sit at the front of their sections or are selected to sing solos, most all take private lessons. Private teachers bring more intense personal attention and motivation to young musicians.

Where can you or your parents find information about private music teachers? Mr. Morden has a list of teachers who accept private students.

Are You Connected?

Not receiving emails? Contact the following addresses for the latest Information. We depend on email to quickly get important information And the CHS Music Dept. Newsletter out to everyone.

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