



YOU'RE A GOOD MAN CHARLIE BROWN" OPENS

## Music Department Newsletter

### MARCHING BAND—BOA

As football season winds down, the chill in the air begins to cut at your face, trees become stripped of their foliage, and 2nd term begins, the early morning sounds of the "Blue Devil" Marching Band intensifies. It's BOA season, the annual pilgrimage of marching bands to Indianapolis, Indiana for the field competition at the "Dome."

Each year, 90 plus marching bands from all over the US come to Indianapolis for a three day, head to head competition sponsored by the Bands of America. Make no mistake about it, this is a competition. All aspects of the bands, from their movements to their musical performance are carefully evaluated and scored.

Different sections, horns, drumline, color guard, and general effect are some of the categories that judges, both on the field and above in the stands, carefully and critically examine to determine who leaves the competition with their hands around a trophy or empty.

"It's not all about the competition," stated Kendall Carrier, Director of Band Activities at Central. "It's about doing your best." Carrier feels the BOA experience has many added benefits beyond the preparation of complex movements and music. Students see and hear many other groups, get ideas, and work together as a team with their parents and fellow bandmen to bring the marching season to a close at this Mecca for competition bands.

In past years, the CHS band has ranked 39th, 51st, out of 90-100 other groups participating. How will they do this year? See "Concerns Grow into Confidence" inside the CHS Music Department Newsletter.

### MUSIC DEPT. GOES EXOTIC

Instruments are instruments...well, no not really. Yes, there are the "standard" instruments like the trumpet, violin, flute, trombone, etc.. But, some instruments, less common in instrumental ensembles, are considered "exotics." With the financial backing of the Band/Orchestra Parents Assoc., theCHS music dept. is renting a concert **HARP**.

Christine Jensen, bassoonist in band and orchestra, also plays the harp. She performed at the orchestra at the MESSIAH concert last year, but with a smaller lever harp not a concert pedal harp. The new, larger, exotic is coming from Lyon and Healy Harps in Chicago. "This opens up new possibilities for the all of us," reported Mr. Morden, Dept Head.

### ALL STATE PERFORMERS SELECTED

55 of Central's best musicians endured the "longest day" for the annual All State auditions held on Oct. 21st. Vocalists left at 4:30am with the instrumentalist following at 5am to make the two hour journey to Fairfield, Iowa. Auditions began at 8am and ended at 6pm with "Recalls" requested of nearly all sections.

Congratulations to all who "faced the dragon." The results are as follows:

#### CHOIR

- Susan Korn
- Katy Ewert
- Maria Rusch
- Ethan Johnson
- Brendan Iglehart
- Kaleb Stebens

Joseph Maddox

Michael Heath (Alternate)

#### ORCHESTRA

Julia Rose Kiley (Oboe)

Aaron Askam (Trpt)

Kaela Swarts (Viola)

#### BAND

Chris Wiseman

All State performers will leave Central by bus on Nov. 16th and return with their parents following their concert at ISU in Ames on Nov. 18.

Concert seats are all reserved. To order tickets

By phone: 515-233-1888

Online: [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)

In Person: Available at all Iowa Ticketmaster outlets

### UPCOMING EVENTS

MUSICAL— "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown"	Nov. 2, 3, 4
BOA Parents Show	Nov. 8
BOA Band trip	Nov. 9, 10, 11
Nat. Honor Society Induc	Nov. 14
ALL STATE, ISU, Amer	Nov. 16, 17, 18
THANKSGIVING VACATION	Nov. 22-26
First MESSIAH Rehearsal	Nov. 27

## **CONCERN GROWS INTO CONFIDENCE**

### **MARCHING BAND MEMBERS SPEAK OUT ABOUT CHANGE**

Last May, a group of veteran marching band members met in the band room to speak with Central Principal Mr. Timothy Wernentin about their concerns for the future of the Marching "Blue Devils." With the sudden resignation of both band directors and changes in the music department schedule, all music students, but especially marching band members worried these changes meant the band's "tradition of excellence" was about to come to an end.

At a recent gathering of upper classmen, marching band students spoke candidly about the changes they have been experiencing with two new directors, a new schedule, and their view of the band's future.

It was a sluggish start. "Back in August, at the beginning of Band Camp, things were shaky," reported percussionist Max Mayfield. Students learned a different style of marching with different verbal commands. This made rehearsals confusing at times. Band size was reduced because some students didn't enroll in marching band due to academic demands, anger with the change of directors, the schedule, or a feeling of "loyalty" to

the previous directors.

Color Guard member Christine Jensen felt the administration didn't understand the reasons for push ups, laps, and other focusing methods. "I wish we still had them. We could be even better," she argued.

Most students expressed the need for more rehearsal time but agreed that both directors were making the most of rehearsals and appreciated the occasional canceling of a rehearsal here and there. Band members clearly liked having one entire block of rehearsal time as in years past and didn't like starting rehearsals at 7am.

Once the school year began, additional problems with scheduling, communication, and organization caused some confusion for a short time. Chastity Dillard said, "Those of us who take all three music ensembles, band, orchestra, and choir, didn't always get announcements."

Cody Tucker explained. "Sometimes there were last minute changes that didn't reach everyone. This caused some frustration." Posting information on the Internet worked for those with computers at home, but not all.

Of those band members who continued marching, there was general agreement that Mr. Carrier's BOA judging experience and Mr. Stone's teaching of marching techniques had made a big

improvement for the band both musically and visually.

Drill writer John Kersten flew into Davenport to see the band's performance and help "clean up" the show. "I wish he could be here all the time," said Brian McDonald.

There was general agreement that not only had the band continued but exceeded the standards that had been set before and the Central "tradition of excellence" was in good hands.

Students love the music. "It's the best around" said one student. And, the drill is "cool" said another.

Taking stock of the whole picture, new directors and the results, Max Mayfield summed up the conclusion of most band members when he said, "Considering how late they got here, the huge job that faced them, and all the confusion at the beginning, they've done a good job."

Band members sited mild frustration over issues of tardiness and absenteeism that push ups and laps would have helped reduce. But, concerning the directors and the future of the Marching "Blue Devils" all agreed that "they really know their business" and "the band is better than ever." As the band prepares for BOA, confidence is high for improved rankings and a fun trip to Indianapolis. If the results of earlier competitions this season are any indication, the CHS Marching Band should achieve both. (see below)

## **MARCHING BAND SEASON SUMMARY**

On Friday, November 10th, at 1:30 PM, on the turf of the RCA Dome in Indianapolis, Indiana, the Marching "Blue Devils" will put it on the line at the annual Bands of America competition. Facing 91 other marching bands from all over the nation, Central's marching band will not only challenge their competition but themselves as they perform their competition show for the last time this year. Or, maybe not! If they make the semi-finals, they will perform the following day.

It's been a new-beginning this year and before the band leaves for BOA it is informative to look back on the competitions they have completed thus far.

Mt. Pleasant Invitational Score: 87.1

Phantom Regiment Invitational Score: 74.5

1st Place Class AAAA

2nd Place Class AAA

1st Place Overall

Best Guard

Best Percussion

Best Music

Best Hornline

Lincoln-Way Invitational Score: 70.4

Best Drum Major

5th Place Class AAAA

State Festival—Muscatine Score: 81.8

5th Place Overall

Superior Rating

BOA Results: TBA

Empty space. We couldn't think of anything to put here. Any ideas?

# STANDING OVATION FOR ORCHESTRA OPENER

Playing the music of Schubert, Tchaikovsky, Dubuque composer Tracey Rush, and the films scores from “The Magnificent Seven” and “Pirates of the Caribbean,” the 9th Grade String Ensemble and CHS Symphony received a long standing ovation from an appreciative audience last Oct. 18th

“It’s the most I’ve asked of any 9th graders,” director Morden said. Their first concert as “Blue Devils,” the 9th grader string

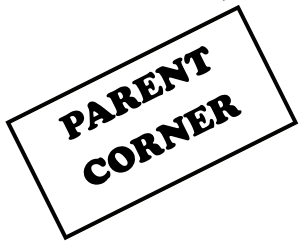
students played not only their own part of the program (Highlands Suite, Fantasia In F, and “Wipe Out”) but learned two pieces the Symphony had prepared and joined them in a finale of “Pirates...” and the CHS “Alma Mater.”

John Bernatz, music facilitator for the DCSD, was pleased. “I wish they had played more,” he commented. “The Central students were musically engaged and the dynamic contrast and excitement were all there. Well done!”

The 9th grade string players demonstrated maturity, poise, and musical professionalism as they tuned up and prepared to perform. Advanced bowing techniques and solid tone production were a surprise coming from the younger students.

Ms. Sydney Schaar, student teacher from Augustana, conducted the 9th graders in “Fantasia” and “Wipe Out.” She included some improvisation in their performance and showed a variety of dynamic gestures in the CHS Symphony’s performance of Schubert’s “Unfinished Symphony.”

The Symphony took the stage with exciting performances of film music from “The Magnificent Seven” and “Pirates...” The “March” from Tchaikovsky’s Symphony No. 6 was electrifying. The orchestra played with rhythmic precision and dynamic control as it performed the long crescendi and climactic moments of the music. The string section was outstanding in their intonation, bowing style, and “gutsy” playing. The percussion section was tasteful and in balance with the rest of the ensemble, aspects that do not always appear in high school groups. The brass section was bold and thrilling as it performed the well known excerpts. BRAVO TO ALL.



- ◆ THANKSGIVING VACATION will begin on Wednesday, November 22nd. School resumes on November 27th.

[www.davenportschools.org/central](http://www.davenportschools.org/central)

- ◆ **SCHNUCKS FUND RAISER:** When you shop at Schnucks grocery store, you can help the entire CHS Music Department. Schnucks will donate the following to our Music Department based on your monthly purchases in the following amounts.

\$1—\$300 = 3%

\$301-\$600 = 4%

\$601-\$999 = 5%

Here’s all you have to do:

1. Pick up a eScrip community card at Schnuck’s. (This is not a credit card. It is a sales tracking card.)

2. Activate your card by calling 1-800-931-6258. They will ask for the school’s zip code which is 52803. We are registered as “Davenport Central H.S. Music.” (see “Schnucks” page 4)

## Central Orchestra Orders 8 New Instruments

In a fund raising letter sent to CHS Music Department patrons, the Band/Orchestra Parents Association requested support to purchase “urgently needed” new instruments. The response of patrons was overwhelming and four new violas and four new cellos were ordered.

While CHS orchestra students have continued to produce high quality performances and receive Division I rankings at Large Group Festivals, the condition of school loaned instruments has deteriorated significantly. “Almost one third of the instruments are nearly unplayable,” reported Mr. Morden, CHS Orchestra Director. Many of the wooden string instruments are cracked, broken, or warped. Varnish on most has flaked off reducing and compromising the quality of their sound making

abilities.

“We (CHS Symphony and 9th Grade String ensemble) hope to repay part of the B/O Parents Association’s instrument investment,” said Mr. Morden. Additional concerts have been scheduled for this year to help with the partial repayment. In December, a holiday program is planned. The first POPS concert is scheduled for late March. Proceeds from both programs will also help with a new music scholarship fund for graduating seniors who will continue their musical studies in college.

THANK YOU

BAND/ORCHESTRA PARENTS,  
GENEROUS PATRONS AND ALL  
CONTRIBUTORS

CHS Music Dept. Newsletter	Editor in Chief Brian Higdon
	Reporters:
	Julia Rose Kiley, Musical
	Brian Higdon, Orch.
	Advisor: Mr. Fred Morden
If you have questions and/or comments, please write Mr. Morden at <a href="mailto:mordenf@davenportschools.org">mordenf@davenportschools.org</a>	

### 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. CHS Music Dept. Newsletter:

Vocal:	<a href="mailto:CHSVocalmusic@revealed.net">CHSVocalmusic@revealed.net</a>
Band:	<a href="mailto:CHSMusic2004@aol.com">CHSMusic2004@aol.com</a>
Orchestra	<a href="mailto:DCSO200607@aol.com">DCSO200607@aol.com</a>
	<a href="mailto:mordenf@davenportschools.org">mordenf@davenportschools.org</a>

# YOU'RE A GOOD MAN CHARLIE BROWN" OPENS



*Julia Rose Kiley looks at "Charlie Brown"*

This year's musical collaboration between the music and drama departments is "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown." Directed by Ms. Emily Wall, a vocal teacher and former assistant to last year's musical, it is her first year directing the entire production. Assisting Ms. Wall are choreographer Anne Hoffman and Mrs. Rebecca Buening who helped with blocking. Accompanying the musical are some of the best players from the Central Symphony and Concert Band. The orchestra is led by Mr. Fred Morden who admits to following the nibble and fast fingers of choir director/pianist Mr. Michael Reese.

**The principal cast members include:**

- Michael Heath—Charlie Brown
- Katie Maxwell—Lucy Van Pelt
- Keenen Wilson—Linus Van Pelt
- Megan Maller—Snoopy
- Brendan Iglehart—Schroeder
- Amanda Dunn—Sally Brown
- Meryl Gahagan—Peppermint Patty

The chorus is made up of many other talented students, who also add significantly to the action in the show.

The show consists of vignettes derived from the ever popular "Peanuts" comic strip by Charles Schultz. These vignettes describe a typical day in the life of Charlie Brown. The production is very captivating, and lively, as it describes Charlie Brown attempting to make it through the day as painlessly as possible, while maintaining a good image with "that cute little red headed girl." Of course, this proves to be almost impossible, as Lucy and the rest of the gang comically sabotage Charlie Brown's day. His situation gradually becomes more miserable through a progression of fantastic musical numbers. By the end of the show and despite embarrassment and humiliation, it is decided that Charlie Brown is really "a good man." The Play concludes with a "tear jerking" line expertly delivered by Katie Maxwell.

I believe one of the best song routines is "Supper Time," featuring Megan Maller. It's a genuine crowd pleaser with "catchy" energetic music and enthusiastic performers.

The show will run November 2, 3, and 4 in Kahler Auditorium. It begins at 7:00 PM and runs approximately 2 hours with intermission. Tickets are \$7.

Gifts for cast members can be purchased and delivered by intermission. See list at right.

- Roses**                 **\$1.75 per**
- 3 for**                 **\$5.00**
- Carnations**         **\$1.25 per**
- 3 for**                 **\$3.50**

**Combinations of flowers are available**

**Mylar Balloon \$3.50**

**Giant Pumpkin  
Linus Balloon \$8.00**

**Hugs & Kisses  
Bag                     \$1.00**

**Drinks and snacks are also available and will help with licensing and production costs of the musical.**

**Question: What instrument does a skeleton play? Answer: Trombone Ashley Finley**

**Schnucks** from page 3

You are only required to give them your name and address. Phone and email are optional. You can register online instead at [www.eScrip.com](http://www.eScrip.com)

3. Hand the cashier your Schnucks card at the beginning of the check-out. It must be done before you swipe your personal credit card or before the cashier totals your sale.

In addition, if you would like, you can help contribute even more if you shop at the following national merchants and get the donations listed by registering your personal credit or debit card when you call to activate your Schnucks card.

Each of the following businesses comply with all the BBB and security/fraud protection guideline.

- Eddie Bauer            5%
- eScrip Visa             up to 2%
- Linens and Things 4%
- Merry Maids           5%

- Office Max             2%
- Orvis                   10%
- Service Master Clean 5%
- Shutterfly             10%
- Sierra Trading Post 5%
- Terminix               5%
- TruGreen Chemlawn %5

**CENTRAL'S SECRET FOR SUCCESS**

Students, parents, and teachers working, planning, and learning together...supporting, encouraging, and inspiring each other.

“It’s not about me  
it’s about WE.”

**Go Marching “Blue Devils”  
Good luck at BOA**

College Admission Officers like seeing applications from students with musical experience.

“70 percent of the nation’s major universities have stated that...the arts are significant considerations for admission to their institutions. They claim that music participation demonstrates time management, creativity, expression, and open-mindedness.” (Assoc. Press 1999)

“Longer arts study means higher SAT scores. For example, students participating in the arts for two years averaged 20 points higher on the verbal portion and 19 points higher on the math portion of the SAT than students with no coursework or experience in the Arts.” (Profiles on SAT and Achievement Test Taker, The College Board, 1999)

# Calendar Page

**For a revised CHS Music Department Calendar of Events go to our website:**

**[www.davenportschools.org/central](http://www.davenportschools.org/central)**

**Click on A-Z, M, Music Department, Calendar**