

EPHRATA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Ephrata High School Marching Unit

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Dear Parents and Students,

It gives me great pleasure to have the privilege of inviting you to join the Ephrata High School Marching Unit for the 2010 marching season. This past year we hosted a Showcase of Bands competition with great success! It was exciting to see so many bands come to Ephrata to compete. The Ephrata Band Parents Association and I have begun plans to host a show again this coming season. Plans have also begun for next year's field show. The music has been ordered and the goal is to have the field show music distributed before the end of the school year. I am in the process of hiring new staff for two positions, Percussion Caption Head and Visual Caption Head. I am also looking for technicians to help during band camp. We will have a custom written drill this year in order to maximize our strengths and minimize our weaknesses. And the colorguard has been improving their skills this winter with indoor guard. Everything seems to be coming together for another memorable season!

Please take time to consider joining the EHSMU. Alumni of the group can attest to the benefits of being in the EHSMU that are listed below and maybe even a few more.

- Make new friends and spend a lot of time with them.
- Develop time management skills.
- Have fun at high school football games.
- Become a better musician as a result of spending more time playing an instrument.
- Feel a sense of belonging to one of the most visible and important groups in the entire student body.
- Experience pride at competitions for a job well done.
- Create wonderful memories during the high school years that will last a lifetime.

Along with the benefits of being in the EHSMU there are naturally some responsibilities. Members are expected to attend all rehearsals with a positive attitude and put forth maximum effort. On the next page you will find a summary of the schedule for the 2010 season of the Ephrata High School Marching Unit so that you can make an informed commitment to a very rewarding experience. Specific dates for Saturday competitions will be announced when they are available from the Cavalcade of Bands Association. A complete detailed schedule will be available before the end of this school year.

To sign up simply fill out the commitment form and return it to the Mrs. Straley via the main office of the high school or the ammo box in the band room **by Friday, April 9**. Consider your commitment carefully because by signing the membership agreement you are committing to the EHSMU for the entire season. Based on your commitment, a field show will be designed with a specific role for you to fulfill. Remember the custom designer. There are no substitutes or alternates, nobody waiting on the bench. We will be counting on YOU!

If you are interested in auditioning for a leadership position in the EHSMU, please send me an email at [s\\_straley@easdpa.org](mailto:s_straley@easdpa.org) indicating how many years you have been in the band, what position, if any, you held last season, and for what position you would like to audition. Within the next month, I will be sending an application and a list of audition procedures to individuals who are interested in a leadership position.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me through the email address or phone number listed below. I look forward meeting all of you at the Season Kick-Off Night, Tuesday, May 18 at 6:30 pm in the high school cafeteria. Ice cream will be served. Show music and the 2010 Season Schedule will be announced and distributed. And you may even find out who some of the student leaders will be.

Sincerely,

Sonia Straley, EHSMU director [s\\_straley@easdpa.org](mailto:s_straley@easdpa.org) 721-1478 ext.13705

## **Rehearsal and Performance Schedule Summary**

- Practices on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning July 6<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm (not mandatory, but recommended)
- SUMMER BAND CAMP – August 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am – 3:00 pm; 6:00 – 9:00 pm. This is a very important week when most of the field show is learned and music is memorized.
- <NEW> Mandatory practices on Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm for the rest of August and then 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm once school starts.
- Meet the Mounts in place of regular practice on the Thursday evening before school starts.
- A Friday afternoon practice on Sept. 3 when we have no school.
- The Ephrata Parade on the fourth Wednesday evening in September. Thursday night practice would be cancelled that week.
- Friday night football games both home and away beginning Sept. 3 for about 10 weeks.
- <NEW> **Saturday rehearsals in September** and competitions on any other weekends with competitions. (Not the weekends of the Ephrata Fair or Homecoming.)
- Ephrata's Showcase of Bands, Saturday, October 23 will count as one of the four competition weekends. We are once again hosting a competition!
- Cavalcade of Bands Championships at Hershey Park Stadium most likely on Saturday, November 13, 2010 if we are in the same size category as last year.

## **Costs**

The costs involved in being a part of the EHSMU are minimal but necessary.

- Marching shoes \$28 and gloves \$2.50 a pair
- Food and Care - \$15 (This money is used by the band parents to provide meals on competition days)
- Bulk uniform dry cleaning - \$8.00 a cleaning x 4 = \$32.00 (It is more expensive on your own - \$9.15 and you must bring a receipt to show that it was cleaned)
- Spending money for food and football games and competitions

## **Academics and Eligibility**

Marching Unit members are subject to the same rules of academic eligibility as members of any sports team. Please check the student handbook for the details, but basically all grades must be passing with only one exception. If a student is failing two classes on Friday, they will not be allowed to perform the following week beginning on Sunday.

**Ephrata High School Marching Unit  
Membership Agreement for 2010-2011 Season**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby do agree to be a member of the 2010 edition of  
(Student's name)  
the Ephrata High School Marching Unit. I am aware of the level of commitment expected from each member of this group. I will strive to do my best and to be in attendance at all performances and rehearsals to the best of my ability for the entire season.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student signature** **Date**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, having read the attached letter and membership  
(Parent/Guardian's name)  
statement above, do support my son/daughter in this endeavor. I will see that my son/daughter is in attendance at rehearsals and performances to the best of his/her ability. I will encourage my son/daughter to fulfill his/her commitment to the band for the entire season.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent/Guardian signature** **Date**

Home address: \_\_\_\_\_  
street city state zip

Phone - Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent cell \_\_\_\_\_ Student cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email - Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Student \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one. Class of \_\_\_2011 \_\_\_2012 \_\_\_2013 \_\_\_2014

Instrument \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary instrument \_\_\_\_\_

Below is a list of summer rehearsals. These rehearsals are NOT mandatory, but I would like to know who will be coming so that I can plan accordingly. If you will be in town and can make these rehearsals, please indicate which ones you will be able to attend. All summer rehearsals in July and August will be held at the Ephrata High School from 6:00 – 9:00 pm and will include both music and marching rehearsal time. Percussion and Color Guard members should also plan to attend these dates. Information about percussion and colorguard auditions and additional rehearsals will be coming later.

Please circle the dates that you can attend. Thank you!

<b>Tues., July 6</b>	<b>Thurs., July 8</b>	<b>Tues. July 13</b>	<b>Thurs. July 15</b>
<b>Tues., July 20</b>	<b>Thurs., July 22</b>	<b>Tues. July 27</b>	<b>Thurs. July 29</b>

Please note: After Band Camp in August, all rehearsals will be **mandatory**.

**Please return this form to Mrs. Straley by Friday, April 9, 2009.**

Please put it in the ammo box in the band room or drop it off at the front office.