

Raider Rhythms

The Official Newsletter of the Robert E. Lee Band

www.relband.org

July 2013

Summer Band Schedule 2013

In order to have a successful marching band season, it is very important that we have a strong summer band program. Please look over the following schedule for summer band rehearsal hours. Summer band rehearsals are required, so please contact Mr. Castillo if there are any conflicts that may keep you from attending. Please understand that the REL Band is all about team effort, so make every attempt to attend!!!

Freshmen and New Marcher Camp

August 1-2

8am-12pm, 1-4pm

August 5 – August 9

August 12- August 16

August 19, 20, 22

Mondays-Thursdays

7:10am- 10:40am - Full Band Marching Block

12:00pm- 3:00pm- Full Band Music Block (including pit)

Fridays

7:10am-12pm Full Band

Thursday, August 8

Evening Rehearsal (All Students)

6pm-8:30pm

Tuesday, August 13

Evening Rehearsal (All Students)

6pm-8:30pm

Thursday, August 15

Evening Rehearsal (All Students)

6pm-8:30pm

Monday, August 19

Evening Rehearsal (All Students)

6pm-8:30pm

Students will have a lunch break from 10:40 to 12:00 pm.

Students are welcome to bring a bag lunch or be picked up for lunch. Please do not be late for afternoon rehearsals!

August 21, 23

6:00-9:00pm- Rose Stadium Rehearsal

Students are responsible for transportation to and from Rose Stadium. Parents are welcome to stay and watch rehearsal.

The Robert E. Lee Red Raider Band presents their 2013 production...



Featuring the Spanish flavored works of...

Maurice Ravel- Bolero

James Horner- The Legend of Zorro

Georges Bizet- Carmen

Nikolai Rimsky- Korsakov- Capricio Espagnol

Welcome Mr. Berry!

Benjamin Berry is in his 4th year as a music educator, coming from Robert Vela HS in Edinburg, Texas. Mr. Berry is originally from New York, where he studied percussion and music education at the world renowned, Ithaca College School of Music. He has performed with the DCA Empire Statesmen, and also with the 10 time DCI world champion, The Cadets. Mr. Berry is VERY excited to work with the Robert. E. Lee Band program!!!!

Visit us at www.relband.org!



Summer Band Survival Items!!!

Please don't forget the following items for your summer band rehearsals!

- Instrument
- Music (Foundations, Book, Flip Folder)
- Large Water Jug
- Light weight and light colored clothing
- Tennis shoes (absolutely no sandals, flip flops!)
- Hat and sunscreen

Because summer band can be an extremely physically demanding event, it is highly recommended that students take the proper precautions to stay healthy. Here are some tips to have a more pleasant experience!

- Stay hydrated! Drink plenty of water and juices. The more that you consume, the less likely you are to suffer heat exhaustion or even heat stroke. Stay away from carbonated beverages!!!!!!
- Eat healthy meals! Stay away from greasy junk food and consume more fruits and vegetables. Also, don't forget to eat a good breakfast. You will be working very hard in the heat, so don't try to run on an empty stomach.
- Get plenty of rest. Although summer band is in the summer, you must get plenty of sleep at night so that you can function properly during morning rehearsals.

DCI North Dallas

If you bought a ticket for the DCI North Dallas event, we will meet up at REL on July 18th at 12pm. (If you are traveling in your own vehicle, please meet up at the school to check in and pick up your tickets).

This year we will be traveling to Frisco (10700 Legacy Dr) to watch a portion of the Cadets full ensemble rehearsal. Following the rehearsal, we will then travel to eat dinner and then to the show site. Please bring your own meal money for dinner and for any souvenirs that you may want to buy.

The show starts at 7:00 at CH Collins Athletic Complex (1500 Long Road) in Denton. We will return home late that evening and get back at approximately 1am.

Class Schedule for 2013-14

1st Period- Symphonic Band and Colorguard

2nd Period- Jazz Band

3rd Period - Percussion Class

4th, 5th, and 6th Period- (director's conference, lunch tutorials, and travel to middle schools)

7th Period - Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Winds

8th Period - Concert Band

9th Period- Open

Band Registration Information

It is very important that band students and parents participate in the band registration on Sunday, August 4. The registration process will include the following...

- Order and receive materials (shoes, gloves, ponchos, t-shirts, etc)
- Return student/parent forms
- Band uniform fitting

(Please be prepared to pay for materials at registration!)

Lyres, flip folders, Foundations for a Superior Performance books, and all other instrument related materials will also be available through the American Band Instruments table.

In order to create a more efficient and enjoyable registration experience, please visit our band website at www.relband.org. You will find the necessary forms that will be needed for registration. Feel free to fill these forms out before you arrive.

In order to streamline the registration process, please use the following schedule. If you cannot attend at your scheduled time, feel free to register at your convenience.

Registration Schedule

2:00-2:30 - Seniors

2:30- 3:15 - Juniors

3:15- 4:00 - Sophomores

4:00- 6:00 - Freshmen

Band Fair Share Program

The Robert E. Lee Band has adopted a Fair Share Program that ensures that our band students all contribute to the necessary expenses that go with being a member of our organization. Although our band is well funded through TISD and Robert E. Lee High School, the needs of our students exceed the amount budgeted for our band program.

Students will be responsible for a \$120 fair share (colorguard is \$100). The fair share will cover the expense of uniform dry cleaning, beverages for marching season, marching contest meals (3), and travel expenses (charter buses, equipment trucks, fuel, etc).

Families are strongly encouraged to have the total Fair Share amount paid at the Band Registration.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 25-26

Student Leadership Training
(Section Leaders only)
REL Band Hall
M-8am-12pm, 1-4pm

July 18

DCI Show
Denton Collins Athletic Complex
Departure- 12pm Arrival- 1am

August 1-2

Freshmen and New Marcher Camp
8am-12pm, 1-4pm

August 4

Band Registration
2pm- 6pm

August 5

Full Summer Band Rehearsals Begin!

August 13

Red Raider Round up

August 15

Band Parent Meeting
6pm

August 17

Band March-a-thon Fundraiser
7am-1pm
Standstill Performance @ 11:30am

August 26

First Day of School

August 28

Back to School Bash
6pm

August 30

First Football Game
@ Sulphur Springs

Pay your band fees

with

PayPal[™]

The Red Raider Band now offers the convenience of paying band fees, fundraising, and even band trips online through the security of PayPal. Please visit our website to learn how to use this online service.

Red Raider Band will continue morning marching rehearsal schedule.

After lots of consideration, the decision was made to move marching rehearsals to before school. With our traditional after school practice time, the 100 degree heat was becoming a major safety concern for our students. The positives from this decision are the following...

- Avoids the extreme heat
- Clears the afternoon time for homework, study time, rest, family obligations, personal business etc.
- With the exception of Monday night, rehearsals are shorter in length
- Creates the opportunity for students to have an after school job. (76% of the student's surveyed expressed interest in part time employment!!!)

And what are some things that can be potential issues?

- Can the students realistically be on time for rehearsal?
- What if a student rides the bus?
- What about other school related functions, such as swimming, cross country, etc?
- "But I don't want to wake up early!" ☹
- Will I have enough time to get ready for the rest of the school day?

These are all good questions! I have been communicating with other coaches and sponsors to ensure that we have the student's best interest as a priority. We will do our best to avoid kids having to choose between two events that they enjoy. Of the students surveyed, a very small percentage indicated that they ride the bus to/from school. Along with kids that have legitimate transportation issues in the morning, I will be happy to communicate on individual basis with the family to find a realistic solution.

Also, we will have new procedures in place to ensure kids have time to get ready for class. However, students will need to do their part by being prepared and move quickly when it's their time to freshen up before they go to first period.

TISD serves a FREE breakfast every school day until 8:40. Students should have time to stop by for a quick breakfast before class if they move quickly after morning band practice. The cafeteria will be expecting us!

Marching Band Rehearsal Schedule

(Begins August 26)

Monday- 5:30-8:00pm
Tuesday- 7:10-8:15am
Wednesday- 7:10-8:15am
Thursday- 7:10-8:15am
Friday- 7:10-7:45am (pep rally
schedule), 7:10-8:15am (no
pep rally schedule)

Please avoid these SAT/ACT Dates!

October 26- ACT (Duncanville
Marching Contest)

December 14- ACT (All Region
Auditions)

ROBERT E LEE RED RAIDER BAND

2013

MARCH-A-THON

The award-winning Robert E. Lee Red Raider Marching Band will be providing a parade for the neighborhoods behind Chili's and Colonial Hills Baptist Church on Saturday, August 17th. We want to provide entertainment for our community and gain exposure for our band program. We are also going to use this as an opportunity to raise funds for the 2013-2014 school year. Our program goal for this fundraiser is \$25,000. The March-A-Thon will help band members earn money to help pay for band expenses including the spring trip, band banquet and competitive marching season. All band members are expected to raise a minimum of \$50. Members of the band will be accepting pledges or donations (donations recommended) for total marching distance.

The 5 mile trek begins at the intersection of Woodland Hills and Brookside. When we reach the park at the intersection of Shelley and Allendale, we will bus to the 2nd leg of the March-a-thon. The 2nd leg will begin and end at Colonial Hills Baptist Church (7330 S Broadway). At the conclusion of the route, we will have a short performance of the 2013 Ole! Opener in the Colonial Hills Baptist Church gym. Immediately following the concert, lunch will be provided to students and volunteers in the gym.

For a minimum donation of \$100, the entire 200 plus piece marching band will provide a lawn concert for the individual houses or cul-de-sacs along the route (list of songs will be provided). These concerts will take place along the parade route.

The first \$50 that each student raises will go directly into the general band fund to pay for the needs of the band as a whole. All the money that the students raise beyond that initial \$50 will go directly into their individual trip account. It is quite possible that each student could raise enough money during the march-a-thon to pay for their entire Spring Trip.

As this is a mandatory activity for all the members of the band all students will be expected to participate. This event will be a huge opportunity for our students to raise funds for the band program and all students will benefit in some way throughout the year. Therefore, it is imperative that we have full participation. Please make plans for your child to be present. If you find that there is an unavoidable conflict, please communicate with Mr. Castillo prior to the event. Alternative service projects will be available for non-participants.

We would encourage everyone to get out and get pledges/donation from friends and families. We have a great opportunity to raise money for the band organization. And remember, all donations are TAX DEDUCTIBLE!

Please contact our March-a-thon chair, Mary Ragsdale, maryragsdale458@gmail.com, if you can volunteer with this event. For more detailed information, visit www.relband.org.





SmartMusic is an interactive music software that is transforming the way students practice. The REL Band will be using SmartMusic next year all year round. Every student in band will be given pass off assignments on marching band music, all-region etudes, solos, scales and exercises, concert band music. Students will have either the option of using this program on one of our school computers, however, it will be more beneficial if student's have the option of using this program at home.

Since a band director or private lesson teacher can't be there with them while they practice at home, SmartMusic provides the guidance to help them practice more effectively. This software gives students access to thousands of pieces of music. In many cases, they can select a piece of music and actually see it on-screen. Then instead of practicing alone, students click the "start" button and play or sing along with background accompaniment. They actually hear how their part fits within the whole ensemble. If they are playing a piece that appears on-screen, they get instant feedback. The notes show up green and red, telling them which notes they got right or wrong. And, students can slow down a piece at first and then gradually increase their speed as their skill grows.

Many practice tools are included in SmartMusic:

- * There is a built-in tuner to help with pitch.
- * A metronome helps students learn how to play rhythms accurately.
- * The built-in record feature provides immediate feedback. Students can learn a lot by listening to themselves.

What can the student's use SmartMusic to practice on? Very simply, almost everything!

SmartMusic's library includes:

- * Band, jazz band, and orchestra titles, complete with educator approved assignments for all parts
- * Method books for band, strings, jazz ensemble, vocal, and recorder
- * Solo accompaniments; perfect for recitals, auditions, and contest
- * 50,000 skill building exercises for musicians at all levels
- * Jazz repertoire and innovative tools for developing improvisation

Why SmartMusic makes practicing fun:

- * Choose to play along with thousands of pieces in our SmartMusic library
- * Learn how your part fits within the ensemble through accompaniment
- * SmartMusic listens as you play, giving you instant feedback on assessable files
- * Move at your own pace by controlling the tempo and click track with subdivisions
- * Isolate difficult phrases of any length with the loop tool
- * Record and play back your practice sessions for self-assessment
- * Send MP3 recordings to family members and friends
- * Solo repertoire accompaniment follows spontaneous tempo changes

Pricing:

The rate for a yearly at home subscription increases to \$40. Go to www.smartmusic.com to sign up today!!!

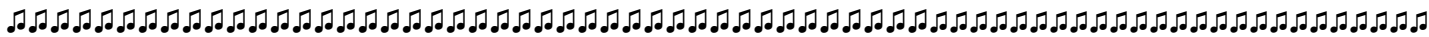
***Do not forget to order a microphone from SmartMusic. You will need one in order for the program to record your playing and assess your playing. These microphones cost \$19.99 and can be reused every year!

Click the link and read more about what SmartMusic has to offer. http://www.smartmusic.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/SM_2012_ParntFlyer_FNL.pdf

With SmartMusic, students are more engaged, practice longer, and learn faster. Watch this video for more information. http://video.makemusic.com/services/player/bcpid2041871193001?bckey=AQ~~AAABZ2UOEUE~.mqpRS9Y0UmR_5S-OReA_wrAyUov846yE&bclid=2080839710001&bctid=1545650723001

If you have any SmartMusic questions, please see <http://www.relband.org/resources/smartmusic/> If you cannot find your answer there, please feel free to email Mr. Noyes.

The goal for all woodwind and brass players is to pass off the Fight Song and Part One of ¡Ole!. If you do not have SmartMusic at home, the band hall is open every Tuesday and Wednesday from 1- 4pm. Feel free to come by and get your assignment completed before summer band begins!



BAND PARENTS ASSOCIATION

LIVE, LOVE, LEE BAND!!!!

As summer winds down... relaxing, laughing, swimming, eating and sleeping on a different schedule...we are gearing up for another great **REL Band Marching Season** and that means lots of work, lots of scheduling, lots of fun and lots of **PRIDE!**

BPA BOARD:

I am honored to be your Band Parent Association President again this year. As we did last year, I will be “sharing” many of the president responsibilities with the very able Executive Vice President, Kristi Bennett (yeah!).

Let me introduce your **BPA Executive Committee**...we are here to serve you.

President	Kristen Baldwin	baldwins5@suddenlink.net	903-570-3171
Executive Vice President	Kristi Bennett	kben30.kb@gmail.com	903-539-4984
Vice President of Logistics	Rusty Goodwin	rugoo1@yahoo.com	903-714-2310
Treasurer	Anna Cousineau	annac3711@suddenlink.net	903-372-4199
Treasurer	Karen Parks	fordfamily@suddenlink.net	903-316-1126
Secretary	Jeanine Grimes	grimesjeanine@yahoo.com	

BAND VOLUNTEERS & REGISTRATION:

We are supported by a great set of Committee Chairs and they are supported by a bunch of Volunteers. We still need lots more volunteers and a few Committee Chairs. Please sign up to help in some capacity during **band registration on Sunday, August 4th**, or call/email one of the Executive Board Members above. Supporting the **REL Band is a Team Sport**, and a lot of fun.

BAND COMMUNICATION:

It is very important to get signed up for the **REL Group Emails** ASAP. I can't stress this enough. This will help you and your student keep up with what is going on from week to week...and it does get very busy in the fall. It is best to send your email to **Penny Spellman** at spellman@tyler.net right away; second best is to sign up at registration. She will add you to the list!

Please visit the band website often at www.relband.org for **announcements, updates, photos and expectations from the directors**. And don't forget about signing up for **Twitter messages** to stay up to date with the comings and goings of the band. You can also sign up during registration.

BAND FUNDRAISERS:

We are planning the following Fundraisers specifically for the BPA:

- **Spirit Sales** (Must haves...T Shirts, Hoodies, Polos...)
- **Concessions Stand** (Football Games at Rose Stadium; fun, fun, fun!)
- **Local Restaurant Sponsored Events** (yummy....)
- **Round Up** (extra \$ donated during registration)

Please support each of these fundraisers and share the news with family, friends and neighbors. Funds raised support various REL Band activities (Banquet, Student Socials...) as well as helping the REL Band purchase items on the “wish list.”

Additional Student Fundraisers include the **March-a-Thon & Discount Cards**. These funds go into a different account to specifically support student band activities. Of course your support is needed for these in a big way as well.

BAND DIRECTORS:

Please welcome our new Assistant Band Director, Mr. Benjamin Berry. The reputation of the REL Band has allowed Mr. Castillo to hire one of the best for this position. We are certain that Mr. Farmer, in his new capacity as an Associate Principal, will be stopping by the band hall often!

We believe we have **THE BEST Band Directors** in the state of Texas, and maybe the USA! Please let them know often how much you appreciate their talent, discipline, time and focus on our kids. Their priority is our children's safety and character...what could be more important?

Finally, you are the most important person in your child's life, even when it doesn't always seem like it. Please keep encouraging your child to have healthy habits, such as **eating right, exercising daily and sleeping enough** (and at the right time!). Help them keep a good schedule and be on time (especially to Band Practice!). And keep on loving them through the “fun” teen age years!

I can't wait to see the Band perform on the field...hope to see you in the stands!

Kristen Baldwin
REL Band Parent Association President

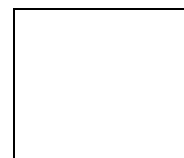


The Robert E. Lee Band now uses

PayPalTM

The Lee Band is on Twitter.
Go to www.relband.org for more details.

Robert E. Lee High School Band
411 ESE Loop 323
Tyler, Texas 75701



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