

June 19, 2006

Dear Allen Bandsman,

We hope you are having a relaxing summer and are anticipating lots of fun and hard work in the Allen Escadrille! We're excited about the up-coming year and know you are as well. Our band is the BEST...and we're going to keep it that way!

As a marching bandsman, you will play an important part in determining the degree of success that the Allen Band will experience this year. The fine musical tradition of the Allen Band did not come about by accident. It was developed through the hard work and sacrifice of both the students and the directors. We will expect this same willingness to work and dedication of purpose from you.

REGISTRATION

Band "registration" will be Saturday, July 29. Registration times will be as follows: Seniors - 9:00 a.m.; Juniors - 10:00 a.m.; Sophomores - 11:30 a.m.; Freshmen (last name A-M) - 1:30 p.m.; Freshmen (last name N-Z) – 3:00 p.m. Please bring your completed student information sheet and Allen ISD Performing Arts Permission and Emergency Release/Authorization (enclosed with this letter) with you to registration. Please take time to review the Band Handbook before signing the acknowledgement form. The handbook can be found on the website, www.allenescdrille.org. School instruments, uniforms, and music will be issued at this time. In addition, you will need to buy marching shoes (if you do not have them or have outgrown your shoes) and a new band polo shirt. Everyone will be required to purchase a new polo shirt since we have changed the color. Garment bags, yard signs, booster memberships, and other opportunities will be available. Parents, please bring your checkbook: band polo shirts (\$27), band shoes (\$ 24 ea, black pr & white pr), game drinks (\$30) and *school instrument* rental fees (\$100) are required.) Parents are encouraged to attend the registration so that we will have a chance to meet you. There will also be opportunities to volunteer for various activities throughout the year. Your support plays a vital role in the success of our students so please come out and join us.

SUMMER REHEARSALS

****All student leaders will meet Thursday, July 27 from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm in the high school band hall.**

Rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, July 26, with Freshmen (and new marchers /old people who want the basics are also encouraged to participate) from 8:00 am - 11:30 am., 1 pm - 4 pm at the AHS Practice Field. Please report **early** to pick up your name badge before reporting to the field. The Boosters will provide a new member welcome lunch on Wednesday only. Instruments WILL BE needed on that Wednesday. (School instruments will be issued during lunch.) **ALL students** (upperclassmen included) report Friday, July 28, 8:30-11:30 am and 1:00-4:00 pm. This schedule will continue until school starts, however on Tuesday, August 1, due to teacher meetings, we will meet in the afternoon only from 1:00 – 4:00pm. During rehearsals, we will: (1) Learn and review basic skills of marching, (2) Get to know other members of the group, (3) Learn stand tunes, and (4) Learn what is expected of you as an Allen Bandsman. Please wear comfortable clothing, socks and tennis shoes for marching rehearsals. Hats, water bottles, and sunscreen are strongly recommended. You are on your own for lunch. Bring your instrument everyday.

You are expected to be present at **ALL** rehearsals. This is the most important time of the fall. Marching spots will be assigned and the first show will be learned during this time. If you see an **UNAVOIDABLE** situation that will cause you to miss a session, you **MUST LET US KNOW!!** Call the Allen Band office, 972.727.0400 x 7744. If we are unable to answer, please leave a message with ALL pertinent information. Communication is so vital. Please post this office number so you and your parents can keep us informed of your “where a bouts”! **WE MUST KNOW WHERE OUR PEOPLE ARE! ***Make sure and remind your friends about starting dates!**

PERCUSSION

Percussion Camp will begin on Saturday, July 22 from 12:00 pm until 10:00 pm. Camp will then meet again on Monday, July 24 through Wednesday, July 26 from 8:30 am until 11:30 am and 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm. You will need to bring plenty of water! Please remember to wear socks and comfortable tennis shoes, you will be marching and playing.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL

Reminder! 1) When school is in session, marching rehearsals begin at **7:00 a.m. each morning.** Meet at AHS Escadrille/track stadium/Freshmen are bussed over to LFC after rehearsal 2) **Monday nights from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.** at Eagle Stadium will continue to be crucial! Work schedules, Monday evening activities, and other school activities, etc. need to happen around these rehearsals. This is a MUST, as it is the only time we all meet together!

Marching season is so crucial in our quest for excellence as a united group, so everyone “digs in” to insure a GREAT start.

Athletes, we have had great success dealing with scheduling with coaches to give you the opportunity to participate in both marching band and athletics. We will continue tweaking this project by the sport you are participating in, as well as, on an individual basis.

In closing, your student leaders are planning fun, social activities scattered throughout summer band. So, pull out those horns (so you won't bleed!), catch some rays (so you won't fry!), and stretch those tight muscles (so you won't CRY!) in preparation for hard work and TONS of fun! See you soon! It's going to be another GREAT YEAR!

REMINDER: PLEASE REMEMBER TO CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR UPDATES, FORMS, ETC. www.allenescadrille.org

Sincerely,

Mr. Pennington	Marching Band Director
Mr. Gibson	Director of Bands, Performing Arts
Mr. Gowler	Associate Director/Jazz
Mr. Ferguson	Associate Director
Mr. Bingaman	Associate Director/Percussion
Mr. Lester	Associate Director/Lowery Dir.
Mr. Boening	Associate Director/Lowery
Ms. Wilson	Director, Color Guard
Mrs. Kendlehart	Performing Arts Admin. Asst.