

# *JEB Stuart High School Bands*

Virginia Honor Band 2000, 2004, 2006-09

Doug Martin, Director

If you know someone else who should have received this packet but did not, PLEASE email me at [director@raiderband.org](mailto:director@raiderband.org) or leave a message at 703-824-3971, and I'll get one in the mail soon. (This letter will also be posted to the website.) If you feel you received this packet in error – that's okay! Read on, and you might be convinced the Marching Raiders are a part of your future anyway!

## **Welcome to the 2010 Marching Raider Band!**

I hope this letter finds you well. Enclosed is a ton of important info about what's sure to be one of the most memorable experiences of your entire life – marching band! I've enclosed with this letter important forms as well as TENTATIVE calendars. The dates are pretty firm, but changes are possible. You can check our website – [raiderband.org](http://raiderband.org) – through the summer for updates and other important information.

This year's show is called "Out of the Cave." It was inspired by the first piece I chose, simply called "Cave," which paints a picture of cave dwellers in the midst of some mysterious rite that builds up a huge amount of tension. The next piece, "Reverberations," steps up the action as we observe sound and light bouncing around the inside of the cave, increasing the level of chaos. Finally, our last piece, "Symphonies of Gaia," celebrates our emergence from the cave and the joys of being in the sun. The three pieces together chart an emotional journey from a place of darkness to a place of light. People who I've played sample recordings for have reacted with enormous excitement, and I know you'll love it too.

We lost a lot of seniors this last year, but despite that, it looks like the overall number of band members will be, once again going UP! There's a high retention rate from last year's band and a bunch of new marchers, especially in the color guard. (We're *very* glad to have all of you!) We're once again going with two drum majors, and we've got staff members both old and new bringing a great amount of expertise to help us prepare for what's sure to be another great year for the Marching Raiders. I can't wait to get started!

The activity fee for marching band this year is **\$240**. However, if your envelope is **postmarked by July 10<sup>th</sup>**, there is an early registration discount of \$40, making your fee **\$200**. Early registration helps us get a more accurate count of band members, and you save money! Why is there a fee for marching band? Unfortunately FCPS provides very little for music programs, and the costs are many, including the music and drill; our August band camp; hiring of staff; buses; copying; competition fees; new instruments/equipment; and the list goes on. The fees you pay do not fully cover our costs---our great Band Booster organization makes up the difference through Tag Day and other fundraising efforts. We work to keep costs low while still providing a quality experience for the students. (This means that for the second year in a row, our activity fee has not gone up, and we have one of the lowest fees in all of FCPS. What's more, in the Stuart bands, **no student is barred from participation due to an inability to pay the full fee** – please see the Student Information Form for more information.)

Still not sure if you want to be in marching band? Yes, it takes a good deal of time. But most students can make the commitment if they budget their time wisely. In fact, students often get *better* grades during marching season. Yes, it's hard work. But that's what makes it great - that so many people are working together, toward a common goal which depends so much on teamwork. The Stuart bands have achieved great success in recent years **because** *new students keep joining*. We hope you'll be one of them!

(continued on back)

I'm really looking forward to this marching season and I hope you are, too. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions; the best way to reach me is [director@raiderband.org](mailto:director@raiderband.org). Thanks for taking the time to read this, and see you soon!

Sincerely,

Doug Martin  
Director of Bands

*IMPORTANT NOTE: If you are selected for Wind Ensemble, you **must** march. This is Fairfax County Public Schools policy. If you are not certain if you have been selected for Wind Ensemble, check the "Announcements" link on the website – [raiderband.org](http://raiderband.org). If you are in Concert Band, you are **very strongly** encouraged to be a part of the marching band. Most members of Concert Band do march, and we hope you will too!!.*

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We are once again organizing a voluntary trip to a **DCI drum corps show** before marching season starts. This year, we're going to a show at George Mason University. People who have gone to DCI shows with us in the past have always come away thoroughly impressed and energized, ready for a great marching season.

For those of you new to the term "drum corps," it refers to a basically-professional level of marching band performance. There are no woodwinds, and there are some other significant differences between what we do and what DCI drum corps does. But the similarities far outweigh the differences, and the level of performance is so astonishingly high that it invariably inspires and excites everybody who goes to see a show. A LOT of students tend to come on these trips, including alumni. (Feel free to invite some!)

The show is on **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4<sup>th</sup>**. We'll carpool, so we would need to leave Stuart at 6:00 PM, and we'll be back by around 11 that night. There's eight drum corps performing, and some are among the top corps in the entire DCI: Cadets, Carolina Crown, Crossmen, and more.

If you are interested, please send me an email at [director@raiderband.org](mailto:director@raiderband.org) no later than **July 10**. You'll be committing to **\$20** (don't send any money yet) for your ticket and to help out with the cost of gas. All seats are reserved, so arranging your ticket through me is the only way to guarantee we'll be able to sit together. (We will need some parents to drive too, and we can give you a few bucks for gas. Let me know!) Hope you can come – I think you'll love it!

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**IMPORTANT NOTES ON THE CALENDAR:** The **Band Weeks August 16-20 and 23-27** are **required** for **all** members of the marching band. This two-week period is absolutely critical. If you have a problem or conflict with any time during that period, please do everything you can to get out of it! Doctor's appointments, for example, should be rescheduled so they do not conflict.

The early August rehearsals for percussion, guard and new marchers before Band Week(s) are required for those students only (and student leaders). **Starting August 16, the entire marching band is to be at all events listed.** For those events where times are not currently listed, they will be announced as soon as possible. Check the website for calendar updates!

The August 15<sup>th</sup> meeting is required for **PARENTS AND STUDENTS!**

## **IMPORTANT NOTES ON THE CALENDAR!!**

All marching band dates are included in the school year calendar on the back of this sheet, EXCEPT the following:

### **PERCUSSION**

Tue July 6, Tue July 13 and Tue July 20:

Noon-1:30 - Drumline

1:30-3:00 - Other percussion (“sideline”/“pit”/“front ensemble”/whatever)

Wed-Fri Aug 11-13:

9:00-4:00 - All percussion

### **GUARD**

Fri Aug 6:

9:00-noon - Returning members

Fri Aug 13:

9:00-4:00 - All members

Let me know if you cannot make ANY of these dates, only AFTER you have tried VERY HARD to get out of whatever conflict you have!



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**Insert full year calendar, FCPS field trip form**

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## Student Information Form: please print clearly!

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle: \_\_\_\_\_ Grad. Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Instruments: Marching Band: \_\_\_\_\_ Concert: \_\_\_\_\_ Jazz/Other: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

Please list the following information about your personal instrument(s):

Instrument	Make	Model	Serial #	Age	Insurance

Please list any performance ensembles in which you participate (both school and non-school groups):

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of private lesson teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ Instrument studied: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever studied: Dance \_\_\_\_\_ Piano \_\_\_\_\_ Voice \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

List the organized sports you are involved in: \_\_\_\_\_

## PARENT INFORMATION

Father's Name:	Mother's Name:
Father's Work Phone:	Mother's Work Phone:
Father's Cell Phone:	Mother's Cell Phone:
Parents' e-mail:	Parents' e-mail (2):

*JEB Stuart High School Band, 2010-2011*

**AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, please mail the forms in this packet AND a check or money order made out to "JEB Stuart Band Boosters" to:**

JEB Stuart Band Boosters Inc.  
P.O. Box 1640  
Falls Church, VA 22041

\_\_\_\_\_ \$240 Marching Band Activity Fee

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$200 DISCOUNTED Marching Band Activity Fee if postmarked by July 10<sup>th</sup>**

\_\_\_\_\_ *reduced fee for those on limited incomes (pay what you are able – contact Mr. Martin with questions)*

We are deeply indebted to the **Ryan Strobe Memorial Scholarship Fund** which allows reduced marching band fees for families in need of assistance; please consider making a donation: \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_

(Submission of this form and fee equates to a firm commitment to participate in all aspects of the marching season. There are no refunds, and you will be "counted" for planning purposes. Thanks for your understanding.)

3301 Peace Valley Lane Falls Church, VA 22044  
(703) 824-3971 raiderband.org