

To: Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade Seaholm students and parents  
From: Tim Cibor, Director of Bands Seaholm High School (248.203.3794)  
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Date: December 2010  
Re: Seaholm High School Band

Greetings! It is already time to start thinking about high school registration. The purpose of this letter is to provide answers to your questions about our band program.

**School Day Schedule:** Next year there will be **3 concert bands** at the high school:

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade Band** is the band that all freshmen are scheduled in.

**Concert Band** is for 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students.

**Symphony Band** is for all 12<sup>th</sup> grade students, and select 11<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders who audition in early spring.

The **Marching Band** usually numbers 185-200 students. During the first trimester, all bands will separately learn the same music and marching routines during their daily classes. The bands will rehearse together each Wednesday evening from 6:30-8:30pm. They prepare for home varsity football games, parades, festivals, and other engagements.

**Out-Of School Rehearsals:** *\*\*Band Camp: Monday August 1 through Friday August 5, 2011* is required for all band members. There are also periodic evening rehearsals throughout the year. Occasional sectional rehearsals are held to allow extra time necessary for sections to learn their material thoroughly.

**ANSWERS TO SOME COMMON QUESTIONS:**

1. Is **Marching Band** required of all high school band members? Yes. This is the “fall band curriculum.” The band members work hard, have great fun, and become a cohesive and dynamic group during this time. It is very common for 8<sup>th</sup> graders (and their parents) to be very apprehensive about such a different and unique activity. They tend to believe they are completely unprepared for this; that they will not be able to march and play at the same time, look uncoordinated, embarrassed to perform for older students, etc. These feelings are understandable and are to be expected. However, the students are well prepared, get lots of support from the older band members, and their concerns disappear in very little time. The most common thing freshmen band parents tell me at fall parent-teacher conferences is, “I had to just about force him to sign up for band because he didn’t want to march-now he LOVES it.” It is a very special feeling when a 9<sup>th</sup> grade band member walks through the hallways on the first day of school and has over 100 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students recognize and watch out for them.

2. What about **Sports**? It surprises many people when they find out that concurrent participation in sports and other activities in band is very common at Seaholm. Even during the fall marching season, there are usually 100+ students in band and a sports team at any given time. The band rehearsal schedule is intentionally kept reasonable to allow students to stay involved in activities important to them. When a student notifies me that there is a conflict, the coach and I meet to arrange a compromise so the student is not torn between two events. In regards to clubs and other activities, Seaholm band members are currently in the following:

- |                           |                              |                                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 8 different fall sports   | Summer Camps                 | Private lessons on instrument or voice |
| 6 different winter sports | Advanced Placement Courses   | National Honor Society                 |
| 6 different spring sports | Student Government           | Out-of-school musical ensembles        |
| Dance Team                | Church/Synagogue Youth Group | SHS Jazz Band, SHS Symphony Orchestra  |
| Out of school sports      | Fall Play and Spring Musical |                                        |
| Tutoring                  | 4.00 grade point average     |                                        |
| Regular/summer jobs       | School clubs                 |                                        |

I hope your son or daughter continues their musical involvement. We believe that we have an active and musically exciting program that enriches our students’ lives. Be part of something excellent.

