



Greece Marching Band Blue Knights

The "Blue Knights" Express

March 25, 2008

The Director's Corner

I want to, again, reiterate how pleased I am to see new faces, as well as returning faces. I hope that this means that you are having fun and you are excited about the Greece Marching Band. It looks like things are set for the 2008 Spring Season. We should have our final rosters ready to go and plans in place.

Last week's rehearsals went very well. I am truly impressed with the progress that we have made in the first two weeks. Not only is our new parade tune sounding so much better, but more and more people are marking time while they play. I can guarantee that practicing like this will benefit you in the long run. As the article in the right hand column refers to, this inside practice is so crucial to our development.

I hope that all of you can get excited about the upcoming fall show. Word on the street is that the music from the opening segment of the fall field show isn't too far from being done. You may even have it in your hands within the next few weeks...but you didn't hear that from me. (Wink!)

The number of rehearsals until the break is dwindling. Let's try to make these the most productive so we go into the vacation feeling prepared and ready to come back and impress those people at the Mighty St. Joe's Classic!

Rehearsals left before performance...

7

(Mighty St. Joes on 4/26)

Take advantage of this time...

Having rehearsals indoors versus having them outdoors can sometimes be a drag. When most of you signed up for marching band, you didn't picture standing still in a gym trying to not hit the ceiling with your flag, or marching eight steps and then turning around. However, this time of year is very important!

The work that we do indoors directly impacts what happens outside. Inside there is a controlled environment where the staff can concentrate on basics and technique. These essential plans will eventually equate to us looking and sounding better on the street and on the field. There is no doubt that it can sometimes be tedious and monotonous, but after a performance, you will surely see the impact that your preparation has had.

Some returning members might feel that this is all old hat and there isn't anything left to improve on. Some may feel that it is a waste of time. Hopefully they can see how their leadership and example helps newer members learn the routine and the expectation that the staff and band members all hold for the unit.

When the band rehearses inside, please take advantage of that time to pay special attention to the details of rehearsal. Use the extra music reps to memorize, because you will surely reap the benefits when it comes time to get in parade formation. Make sure that you know the exact angle of your hand or how the grip of the stick goes. With this attention to detail, the entire band will benefit as we march down the street or across the field!

Important stuff to know

- ◆ The **deadline for commitment** to the marching band was today. By tonight, you should have made a decision to stay with the band for rehearsals and performances though May 26th or not to return. Your registration money (\$30) and forms are due now as well.
- ◆ All **apparel order forms are due** THIS THURSDAY so that the merchandise can be delivered in time for Mighty St. Joe's!
- ◆ If you need to be **absent** for a rehearsal, you MUST email Mr. Hoffman as soon as possible to let him know at **grecemarchingband@hotmail.com**.
- ◆ Remember that if you are a new member, please keep in mind you will need to **buy marching shoes and gloves** (approximately \$27 total for band, \$35-\$40 for guard). More information about that will be coming home soon!
- ◆ **Uniform fitting** will take place on Tuesday, April 1st and Thursday, April 3rd. More information will be forthcoming regarding exactly when you have to be prepared to get fitted.
- ◆ The **Lottery Raffle and Candy Sale** fundraiser has the potential to be largest in GMB history. Start getting people at home, work and school pumped about the possibility of winning money! They have 31 chances to win for just \$5!
- ◆ Calling all parents, the Boosters are looking for more parents to **help sew flags and uniforms**. Please contact Lisa Murphy about Volunteering!
- ◆ All of the latest information can be found on the website. Please visit **www.grecemarchingband.org** to find out more about rehearsals, performances, social events and fundraisers.

Greece Marching Band

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This Week's Schedule

Thursday, March 27th

Rehearsal at West Ridge: 6:30pm – 8:30pm
Color Guard starts at 6:15pm

Tuesday, April 1st

Rehearsal at West Ridge: 6:30pm – 8:30pm
Color Guard starts at 6:15pm

Upcoming Events

Fri, March 28th – Buffalo Niagara Film Festival presents "From the 50 Yard Line", a documentary about the drama, emotion and excitement of marching band. Check it out if you can make it out. <http://www.buffaloniagarafilmfestival.com/2008-films/FromThe50.php>

Sat, April 26th – Mighty St. Joe's Alumni Corps Indoor show at Apollo. We perform at 7:00pm sharp. Dress rehearsal will be from 12:00-1:00pm. You need to be back for the performance by 5:45pm.

Sat, May 10th – Lilac Festival Parade in Downtown Rochester. Details TBA. This usually happens around 10:00am and we report to WR by 8:00am.

Mon, May 26th – Memorial Day Parade in Greece. We typically march at 2:00pm.

Booster Contact Information

Connie LaRocque, President
865-4377 or President@grecemarchingband.org

Contact any Executive Board member via the website:

www.grecemarchingband.org

Please feel free to ask any questions or provide any feedback that you have to Mr. Hoffman or one of the parent boosters. We are more than happy to address any concerns. You can email Mr. Hoffman at grecemarchingband@hotmail.com or call him at 966.4675.