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Dear Marching Band member:

Hello everyone! As band members, we need to get a head start on the upcoming school year and most importantly, the marching band football season. I know some of you are anxious to get back in the swing of things, while others are wishing for ten more weeks of summer. Whatever you are feeling, it's time to make music! This letter is to remind you of some of the upcoming events that take place in a few weeks. The first official "band" event will be on Wednesday and Thursday, **August 12th & 13th**. There will be two full music rehearsals from **9:00am-12:00noon** for ALL students.

Next, is the important week of Band Camp, which runs from **WEDNESDAY, August 19th** through **FRIDAY August 21st** and **MONDAY, August 24th** through **WEDNESDAY, August 26th** from **9:00am – 3:00pm**. I can't stress enough the importance of this week. We will spend time learning new music, reviewing how to march, learning the half-time show, and building the strong bond that exists in **your** program. I ask that students with work conflicts please arrange your schedule to attend this important week, and yes, you have to go. Also remember to bring a bagged lunch each day and plenty of water.

On **WEDNESDAY, August 26th**, there will be the annual family cookout. The cookout this year will be after band camp in the afternoon. We will end at **1:00** and start the cookout, so plan on staying for a while to relax and have some fun. This is also a great time to "showcase" what we have learned so far during camp. Before we eat, there will be a performance at **1:00** on the Main Football Varsity Field. The *Music Boosters* will be sponsoring the cookout and **all family members are invited to come!!!!**

On **Wednesday, September 9th** at **7:00pm** there will be an important *Music Boosters* meeting in which all parents are encouraged to attend. Information about the upcoming year will be discussed and most importantly, band uniforms will be given out that evening. For any "new" parents to our program, please feel free to introduce yourself to me and ask any questions that you may have. I know that this can be an overwhelming experience, so if there is anything I can help clear up, please ask.

This year's band program continues to grow. We are expecting about 165 students between the Concert Band, Symphonic Band, and Color Guard that is combined for Marching Band. I have placed the PHS Band Handbook on the website. Students and parents are asked to download the handbook and read through it thoroughly. One form that needs to be printed out and returned is the student Medical Release Form. This form is due in the office by the end of band camp. Please also take the time to "surf" through our website to find information about our program. All important dates and calendars are placed on the website also. Please check this page periodically for updated events and concerts. Students and parents are also encouraged to download the monthly calendars as it will contain all of our rehearsal times and performances. Our web address is: **www.portsmouthmusic.org**.

I highly encourage all parents and students to join our **Band Email List**. All you need to do is send me an email with the parents and students' names and email address and I will add you to our email mailing list. This will serve as a great tool to remind parents of upcoming events and any new information that come our way. Be sure to take advantage of it so don't miss out.

Please send emails to:

music@portsmouthmusic.org (only one address per household and please, don't forget to tell me who you are).

I have also included a parent volunteer form for any parent that is looking to help out at our events. We are always looking for chaperones and parent help throughout the year, so if you would like to help, please fill out the form and you can return it to me at least two weeks prior to the event. A copy of this form will also be included on the website for you to download at anytime.

As some of you may know, we travelled to California this past year. We will be travelling again this year, but this year's trip will be on a much smaller scale. Information will be posted and distributed as soon as possible.

I look forward to seeing you again during band camp and I am looking forward to this year's band season. I know it will be a fun and challenging year for all of us!! If you have any questions I can be reached at the High School at **683-2124** or by email: **music@portsmouthmusic.org**.

Sincerely,
Mr. Rausch

