

Blackshirt Bands

To: The Parents of Incoming 8th Grade Students

Entering high school is a giant step forward in every child's education and each incoming student is now facing many important decisions that will have a direct impact on the quality of their high school career and the direction of their entire lives. By participating in the music program at South High School, a student's future will be significantly enriched throughout their high school career while providing expanded opportunities and skills that will be utilized throughout their lives.

Often young people fear the added workload of the high school curriculum and they may assume they do not have time to participate in the music program. That is simply not true. In fact, it is often the band activity that serves as a transitional key to success for upcoming students. Being a member of our band program will insure that incoming band students will have instant acceptance in a respected organization. This will be very helpful to them in overcoming their insecurities about this big step up. Band membership will create a firm sense of belonging to a group and veteran band members will help answer the real questions incoming students may be concerned about. By the time school begins new students will feel more like veterans than freshman. Looking ahead to the future of all of our music students I would like you know just a few of the many benefits associated with being part of a formal music program.

- ❖ Research proves that when music is included in a student's daily learning that reading, writing, and math scores also improve.**
- ❖ There is a high correlation between positive self-perception, high cognitive ability, healthy self-esteem, total interest in all school activities, and the study of music.**
- ❖ College admission officials give special consideration to students who are part of their high school music programs.**
- ❖ The longer an individual studies music, the higher their scores will be on both the verbal and math portions of the SAT exam.**
- ❖ Employers such as Michael Dell often seek out students who are part of their high school band program because of the student's enhanced ability to solve problems and work well with all kinds of people.**

High School is an experience that prepares our young people for the next stage of life, and our students deserve every advantage they can possibly get in preparation for an increasingly challenging future. Carefully consider all of the possible advantages of participating in a comprehensive program of music education at Waukesha South High School.