



The Raider Rhythm

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Flushing Raider Band and Orchestra News

High School High Marks at 2008 Festival

The High School Bands and Orchestra each earned top honors at the 2008 Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association (MSBOA) Festival on March 7th and March 8th. All three musical groups, The FHS Orchestra, Concert Band, and Wind Ensemble, each earned an overall “1 rating”, signifying superior performances.

The Band and Orchestra Festival, held at Flushing High School, hosted ensembles from local high schools performing programs of three pieces for adjudication, one of which must be from the organization’s required music list. Bands and orchestras are evaluated by three performance judges and one sight-reading judge. Ensembles are rated on a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 being the highest rating possible. The overall score is computed using a formula which combines the ratings of each judge.

The Concert Band and Wind Ensemble are under the direction of Mr. Patrick Ruddy and the Orchestra is under the direction of Mr. Matthew Forselff.

Middle School Mastery at Festival

Not to be outdone by their senior high counterparts, the Flushing Middle School’s Band and Orchestra also earned superior “1 ratings” at the 2008 Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association Festival on February 29th and March 1st.

The Middle School Concert Band is under the direction of Mr. Eric Fontan and the Orchestra is under the direction of Mr. Matthew Forselff.

“The directors are very proud of the students and the hard work they put in this festival season,” states Mr. Fontan. “The orchestra was one of two groups to earn “straight 1’s on stage and in sight reading, while the band was the only group to earn straight “A’s” on stage all weekend.”

The next task at hand for our Middle School musicians is preparation for the Solo and Ensemble Festival on April 12th, 2008. The event will feature students performing solos and small ensembles for a judge and a small audience. They will receive rating of “1-5” with medals being awarded to top performers. The festival will be held at Flushing Middle School.

Elementary Excellence in the Making

The elementary school programs are practicing and preparing for the May Spring Concert. The concert will be held on Tuesday May 13th at the William Tunnichliff Auditorium in Flushing High School. The Beginning and Advanced Orchestras will perform at 6:30 PM followed by the 6th Grade Band at 7:30 PM. While the elementary music programs are going through many unplanned budgetary and organizational changes, the students and directors continue to strive for the high standard created by our rich history of musical excellence. Please mark your calendars and come support the future of the Flushing Band and Orchestra programs.

Booster Banter

April Showers Bring Band and Orchestra Flowers! – It is that time of the year again! The annual flower sale fund raiser kicks off on March 26th and continues until April 21st. These colorful and bountiful baskets of floral beauty are the perfect botanical addition for any home or business. Don't personally know a Band or Orchestra member? DON'T FRET – email the Boosters at FlushingBOB@yahoo.com for assistance. Thanks for your continued support of our most colorful and popular fundraiser!

Extreme Makeover – Website Edition! – The Flushing Band and Orchestra Booster website recently went through a significant digital facelift. Take a moment or two (that's a quarter note or an eighth note to you musicians) and see the great revisions and all of the latest news at www.flushingmusic.org. Special thanks to our wondrous web guru Beth Manning for all of her hard work!

Open Master's Classes Scheduled for May

Attention all High School and Middle School band students – every Tuesday in May, from 6 PM until 8 PM, the Flushing Band program will hold open practices at the High School. This is a great opportunity for students in 7th through 11th grades to advance their fundamental musical skills and methods. All classes are free – attend all or some or all of the sessions, there's no obligation. We hope to see you there!