



Part 2...

October 20, 2009

Dear Parents/Students,

This letter is to give you an update on our spring tour. A "Pu-Shu" letter was sent in August in order to challenge students to put \$200 in their accounts by October. We could then, with \$16,000 in student accounts (80 students x \$200 in each account), start to see what type of trip we could actually take. If you would like to review the Pu-Shu letter, it is accessible on our band website. The following data represents the results of our (Boosters) challenge to our students...Put Up or...you get the idea!

Goal: 80 students/\$200 = \$16,000

Results: 35 students/\$313 = \$10,952.50
45 students/\$75 = \$3,372.33
80 students/\$179 = \$14,324.83

Breakdown: 35 students have \$200+ in their accounts
8 students have \$150-199 in their accounts
6 students have \$100-149 in their accounts
14 students have \$50-99 in their accounts
5 students have \$1-49 in their accounts
12 students have \$0 in their accounts

Summary: 45 students (56%) did not attain the goal.
31 students (39%) came up over \$100 short of the goal.

Conclusion: There are many who have worked hard, but the amount of students who are way below the line concern us. We are delaying a FINAL decision on this trip until November 2nd. **At this time**, we cannot justify the financial burden of a trip to Los Angeles. However, students have two weeks to change these figures.

We will discuss these findings further at our November 2nd Booster meeting (6:30pm, band room). This data will change - as students will have had another 2 weeks to turn in money before we meet together. Who knows, maybe our conclusion will be different! We welcome your respectful opinions, observations and comments.

Thank you,

Mitch Baker, Band Director

Rob Johnson, Band Booster President

October 20, 2009

Parents and Students,

The FHS band room is about to change. In an effort to preserve hearing and soften the blow of the room (audibly and aesthetically), we are installing carpet. The band room will closed from 3:15pm Wednesday, October 21st until 7:15am Wednesday, October 28th. Students will not have access to their instruments *through the band room* during that time. My classroom for the next few days will be in the small room attached to the small gym. Zero period, 2nd period and 5th period will continue on, but 3rd and 4th period are too large to fit in that class *in a rehearsal setting*. So, we will have several days where we will meet...but will not play. There are many, many things we will accomplish during this time: theory, rhythms, marching, listening, etc... Needless to say, these will not by any means be wasted days. However, it will require two large classes to operate outside their comfort zones for four straight days. Parents, just think of how much practice time can happen during that time at home!

My biggest concern for the students is their adaptability *after* the carpet is installed. In order to preserve the life of the carpet, we must modify one major classroom rule:

No food, drink, candy or gum is allowed in the classroom at any time. Bottled water is the only exception.

- In the past, I've allowed students to eat during brunch and lunch in the band room. Students will now eat in the Kennel or outside. Because non-band students are not allowed in the Kennel, this means that non-band members are not allowed to eat in the class at any time, period.
- This rule is a natural progression for our band program. During lunch and brunch, this room has served too social of a function. Many musicians would like this room to stay a rehearsal room during brunch and lunch. Many of my band kids do not like how many non-band members are in here. Since this isn't their classroom, these kids are usually the ones that don't even throw their trash away after lunch! There are already rehearsals that take place every Monday and Tuesday in the band room. This no-food-policy will keep the focus on music during brunch/lunch – it is a good thing!
- In addition, I want students to do a better job remembering to wipe their feet when they enter the band room, especially when the rain comes. Also, when it is raining or the grass is wet, I want as many students as possible to use the walkways before they come into class (the grass is very muddy right outside the doors). I will not standing by the front door, enforcing the wiping of feet! But hopefully, by putting it in print, students can understand the expectation and police themselves on this.

Next, there are two fundraisers taking place right now! The poinsettia fundraiser began Friday; as did sales for our Swingin' Spaghetti Feed. On October 16th, students received tickets to the spaghetti feed and a manila envelope for the poinsettias. Inside the manila envelope are an order form and 7 beautiful flyers for display or distribution. Money collected for these events should be turned in on Fridays. If you have further questions about either one of these events, contact cougarbandbooster@gmail.com

Thank you,

Return by October 23, 2009

I have read the Pu-Shu Update. I understand that, at this point, we cannot take a trip this year. But, we have until November 2nd to see if the findings have changed. Also, I have read the "Carpet Dissertation" ☺ and the information about further opportunities to raise money this year (poinsettias and Swingin' Spaghetti Feed).

Student Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____