



**FROM the PODIUM** Chris Smith, Director of Bands



Hello Boosters,

Communication: so important to the success of any business, organization or family. The Comeaux Band Program strives very hard to keep everyone notified of upcoming events. Most of these can be found on the Band Calendar of Events found on the band website.

Each morning, upon arriving at school, I write the class announcements. These announcements are read at the beginning of each class and are also posted on the bulletin board for at least 4 days. Students should not be unaware of anything they need to know if they are paying attention to the announcements or reading them if they are absent on any given day. While I do not mind responding to emails, phone calls or text messages, most of the info that parents are inquiring about can be found by talking to your son/daughter.

Attendance at the monthly Booster meetings has been very low. At the October board meeting we will discuss the monthly meetings and decide whether these meetings should be monthly or perhaps alternating months. When a decision is reached I will notify all boosters by email and PACE call.

I'd like to congratulate Bryson Dronet - Bassoon and Alex Pipkins - Bari Saxophone on their first round All-State auditions. Both were chosen to go on to second round auditions on October 7th in Pineville, LA. Also, chosen as an alternate, was Lauren Domingue - Alto Saxophone.

We're getting in the thick of marching season and in just five weeks it will be over. Please come out and support your son/daughter in the Spartan Band at the upcoming festivals/competitions. See the article concerning these events in this edition of the Crescendo.

District Honor Band auditions will be held on Saturday, December 17th. Students are strongly encouraged to audition for the honor band. SLBDA offers three high school honor bands, more than any other district of which I am aware, and gives students a much higher chance to make the honor band. While the goal is to make the band, the secondary goal, and one just as important, is to improve as an individual musician. Talk to your son/daughter about auditioning for the honor band. If the need help with the music they simply need to ask Mr. Geiger or myself and we'll be more than happy to work with them.

I'd like to thank all of those chairpersons who have been working really hard to make the Comeaux Band successful thus far this year: Mindy Portier - Uniform Mom, Jessica Couvillon - Concessions, Christy Dew - Chaperones, Clayton Choate - Equipment Crew, Heather Moore and Daniel Fontenot - Medical/Hydration and Kenny Perry - Do-Dad's. Thanks also to all those who help out in these areas. Finally I'd like to welcome to our staff the new band secretary Kathleen Prather. Kathleen is the mother of Freshman saxophonist Seth Prather. When you call the band room or stop by please tell Kathleen hello.

See you at the meetings, Chris

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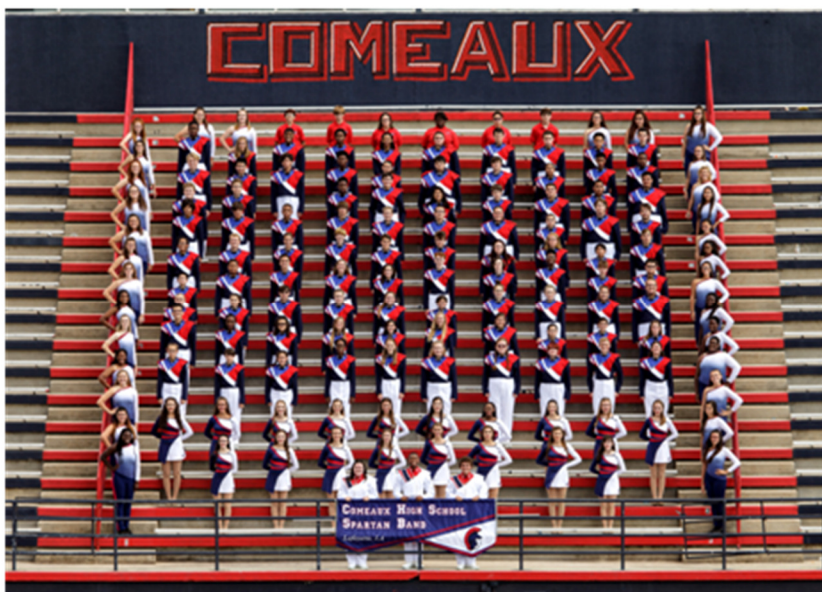
## **LAGNIAPPE** Scott Geiger, Associate Director of Bands



Hello Again,

Another month has passed. Another month has continued to amaze me. For those that are able to give an evening of their time, and afternoon, or even a couple hours, THANKYOU! It has been such a treat to see help with moving equipment, roofing our shed under the tower, helping with concessions at games (sorry I miss you visitor's side!), and all the other assorted ways that parents help out. We REALLY couldn't do what we do without you. We all have our times and abilities. Hopefully there is something that best suits your talents and time. I know that those who have given of their time enjoy seeing the "characters" your child gets to be with every day. We have so many great students with such a wide array of personalities, and every day I come to school there's something else I get met with. Please don't take that as a negative, but rather more and more learning opportunities of individuals. A great chance to help shape young minds, and get them moving down the pathway of success. I hope that you'll join me in helping them get down their pathway. Sometimes it's helping them find a solution for not having white socks. Other times it's caring for someone not feeling well. These are the kids that your child hangs around, and we offer opportunities for you to see them without "intruding". So many great people to be with, and to talk with all the parents.

I hope that you can either continue your support, or possibly find some time to come support us. It really is a rewarding experience, and a chance to meet so many new people. I'm continually impressed with how blessed I am to interact with all of you, and how much people give of their time. We love having more of you, so just call/email and ask how you too can get involved, even for an hour or two. We have ways, and will make it fit your schedule. Scott



### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**



Please be sure to keep up with the Band Calendar of Events. This calendar is located on the band website [www.comeauxband.com](http://www.comeauxband.com). It is updated weekly. If you look the upper right corner of the first page (June 2016), you will see the date of the last up-date. It is imperative that students and parents keep up with the calendar and know when upcoming events are scheduled, who is required to be in attendance and all times associated with the event.



### **SENIOR NIGHT 2016**

This year's Band Senior Night will be held at the NISH game on Thursday, October 27th. Seniors and parents will be recognized at half-time of the game. Information was disseminated to seniors the week of September 19th. Included was a script page and photography page. Please adhere to the deadline dates on the informational sheets. Make plans now to attend with your son/daughter, it's a most important night for them, one they've looked forward too for three years.

## A PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE, Krista Sansone



Welcome to Marching season! The students have learned three movements and are working on the fourth & fifth. We did an amazing job at Bandboree, and the show is looking amazing. It is my last year with the band and I'm not liking this whole senior thing. As I am glad my son is growing into an incredible, responsible young man. He has learned many valuable lessons from Mr. Smith and Mr. Gieger. Since Freshman year he has learned that punctuality is of the utmost importance. He has repeated "if you're on time, you're late!", to me regularly since freshman year. They instill a huge appreciation for all kinds of music, to all of our band kids. We have a group of band kids that; love music, respect others, and have an amazing work ethic. They also have a good time together even when they are hot and tired. They are building lifelong relationships that will last forever. We have another month of marching season till we reach Showcase, the reason for all our hard work and practice. Let's make this the best season that we have ever had!

*"Dear Music, I will never be able to thank you enough for always being there for me." unknown*

Your Booster President,  
Krista Sansone



## BAND LEDGERS

Band ledgers are kept for each student in the Comeaux Band Program. The ledgers are used for depositing monies earned through fund raising activities and payments made to the program. The ledgers are debited for all band assessments, trip payments and certain articles needed for band members. (See band handbook pg. 55.)

The first Quarterly mailing was mailed on Friday, September 16th. If your child's ledger was in arrears you should have either sent in payment in full or contacted Mr. Smith in the band office to make other arrangements. This is not something to be taken lightly. Ledgers must be kept in balance at all times. Please keep up with payment deadline dates and fund raising opportunities. Remember fund raising monies are not credited to the band ledger until the fund raiser is complete. *Student's whose ledgers are continually in arrears, and the parent has not made payment arrangements with Mr. Smith, will not be allowed to participate until their ledger is in balance.*

## INSTRUMENT STEP-UP NIGHT



On Thursday, November 10th the Spartan Band Program will hold its annual Instrument Step-Up night. This is a unique opportunity for students to experience playing on Professional or "top of the line" student level horns. Mr. Green, from Lafayette Music, will have Flutes, Clarinets, Alto & Tenor Saxophones, Trumpets and Trombones available for students to play on and see the difference in a professional model instrument.

This is not an attempt to coerce or convince anyone to purchase an instrument. It's simply a change for the student to see what a difference a quality instrument can make in their playing. If you are interested in possibly moving toward a better instrument Mr. Green will be glad to discuss the options you have and what he can do for you. The Comeaux Band Program only benefits by students who chose to do so playing on a higher quality instrument.

All are encouraged to come to the band room on Thursday, November 10th between 6:00 & 7:00, with their mouthpiece/ mouthpiece & reed, and try a pro-line horn.

## **JUST DANCE, Jennifer Hebert, Instructor**



Marching season is off to a great start for Rhythm In Bleu! The girls have been hard at work learning new routines and preparing each week for the games ahead. Unfortunately, either due to weather or an away game with a half-time devoted to Homecoming Festivities, Rhythm In Bleu has only been able to dance two half-time performances so far. This requires quite a bit of patience and understanding that each game has a certain routine planned for it. Therefore, we are not able to simply perform the routines we already know if there is a specific routine planned for the game that's next. This means that there are weeks that the girls are required to learn AND clean a routine in one week with only two practices after school per week. However, with good planning, quick teaching and even quicker learning by the team, it is not only possible, but can prove to be a situation that promotes increased skill among the members of the squad. Dancing is difficult enough without having to rush learn a brand new routine you have never seen before, much less remember it and have it ready by the end of the week to perform. This new challenge presented to the team has been received by them remarkably well, and I have seen a welcome change in their motivation to learn quickly and get things right the first time, as well as applying corrections more efficiently. I am super proud of our girls and the work they put in day in and day out to insure a Friday Night performance worthy of praise, and one that will represent the Comeaux High School Band in the best possible way.

Rhythm In Bleu would also like to congratulate ANGELA COMEAUX for being an elected member of the 2016 Homecoming Court! We are so very proud of you Angela.

Jennifer Hebert

## **REHEARSALS**

The marching band rehearses on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2:50-5:30. It is imperative that all students be in attendance for these rehearsals. Every rehearsal is crucial to the band's success, but at this point in the season it becomes even more critical. There are two movements of the show left to learn and begin cleaning. When a student is absent from rehearsal, excused or unexcused, it has a detrimental effect on the over-all band performance. Students need to work through minor illnesses like a headache or stomach ache and get help from the medical/hydration tent and push through rehearsal. If they are truly not able to do so, they should not be at rehearsal, but getting themselves better so as not to miss more school or rehearsals.

Parents are asked to make every effort to schedule doctor's appointments and the like on Monday's and Wednesday's when at all possible. Students in rehearsal is a must to allow the band to have a chance to reach it's potential.

## **CONCESSIONS**



Hot Dogs! Hamburgers! Cold Drinks! Get your Hot Dogs, Hamburgers and Cold Drinks at the Comeaux Band Concessions Stand.

Jessica Couvillon, concessions chair and Mrs. Mavis Domingue (visitor's side manager) and all of their Booster help have been doing an awesome job with the football concessions. They couldn't do it without your (the Boosters) dedication and commitment.

The schedule for the remaining games is as follows: Freshmen/Sophomores Sam Houston game - September 30th, Freshmen/Juniors St. Martinville game - October 14th, Juniors /Seniors NISH game - October 28th and Freshmen/Sophomores LSH game - November 4th. If you are able to help in the concessions stands for any game please contact Jessica at 517-6825.

## **SPIN-LIKE-the-WIND, Morrice Boutan, Instructor**



This month has been very productive for the Color Guard. Adding two movements with full drill and choreography is not easy, but they have definitely surprised me with their drive to become better dancers and spinners. Now that we all are comfortable with spinning, we are currently working on performance quality. Getting the kids to understand the basics of communicating the show to the audience is the foundation of performance. We are improving on it right now and I am sure it will make a difference in our show when all of our girls are committed to projecting their performance from their spots to the audience. But like all things, this will take time and discipline to understand the concept. Nothing worth having will come to us easily, and we are happily working hard to finish learning our marching contest show.

## **BINGO**



The Comeaux Backer's Organization is continuing to sponsor Bingo Sessions at Metro Bingo. Sessions are held on Friday's (8:30pm - 1:30am) and Sunday's (12:30pm - 5:00pm) at the Metro Bingo on the Evangeline thruway toward Carencro.

To work bingo you must first join the Comeaux Backer's. Krista Sansone, our Booster President is also the Vice-President of the Backer's. You can contact Krista at 654-0896 to obtain a registration form. There is no fee to join the Backer's.

Mrs. Nicole Choplin does the scheduling for the Bingo Sessions. After joining the Backer's you may contact Nicole at 224-4442 to schedule sessions. It is important that once you've scheduled a session that you do, in fact, work the session.

Presently sessions pay as follows \$80.00 for a workers & callers and \$160 for a manager. You may train to be a caller or manager and both positions are in high demand. Monthly the Backer's will make a donation to the Comeaux Band for the amount worked. Fifty percent (50%) is credited to the band student's ledger and fifty percent (50%) is credited to the band program. Remember that the amount credited to the band program will be debited from the student's fund raising proportion for that semester.

If your name is not on the Bingo Workers List it should be. This is a great way to earn monies for your band ledger and support the Comeaux Spartan Band! If you have any questions please contact Krista, Nicole or the band office 981-1096.

## **MARCHING BAND COMPETITIONS**

The Spartan Marching Band will participate in four marching festival/competitions this season. October 1st - Vermilion Parish Festival, October 18th - SLBDA District Festival, October 22nd - Showdown at Sundown - McNeese Competition and October 29th - Louisiana Showcase of Marching Bands Competition.

The Vermilion Parish Festival is the first of the season for the Spartan Band. Report time is 10:30 at the band room to change into uniform. The band will depart at 11:00 for Abbeville Jr. High, the site of the festival. The band will begin warm-up at 12:30 with their scheduled performance time is 1:30. The awards ceremony should begin at 2:30. The estimated time of arrival back to Comeaux is 4:00pm.

The SLBDA District Festival on Tuesday, October 18th will be held at Cajun Field. Students will remain after school for a brief rehearsal, have dinner, which will be provided, change into uniform and depart for Cajun Field. The schedule has not yet been set for this festival.

The schedule for Showdown at Sundown at McNeese State University on October 22nd has not been set as of this publication. The Comeaux Band will report to Comeaux High School for a rehearsal that morning followed by lunch/dinner. The band will change into uniform at McNeese.

Showcase on October 29th will follow the same basic schedule as the McNeese competition.

More info on SLBDA, Showdown at Sundown and Showcase will be forthcoming as soon as it is received.

Make plans to travel to these performances to see the Comeaux Band and support your child in their performances.

## **A NOTE from the BAND PRESIDENT, Dawson Dew, President**



Hello Comeaux Band!

September is going by very quickly! This also means marching season is already about half way over. I do not think some of us realize how little of marching season there really is left. As of Sunday, September 25, there are only TEN rehearsals left, and we still have to get a whole movement on the field. We as a band need to WANT to strive to be the best we can be. We should WANT to sing our school's alma mater. We should WANT to support our football team at football games. We need to have more pride in not only us as a band, but our school. You only go to high school once, and high school is "some of the best years of your life." Enjoy it, and be proud to call Comeaux High School your school!

Most of the band students have probably noticed that rehearsals have been slightly more "stern" lately. I believe this change in attitude is happening because people are realizing how little time we have left, and have learned what we need to do to be successful. Mr. Geiger has told us that at least one band organization will be finalists. Let's make showcase one of those finalist performances! We need to not only continue the work ethic we have had the past couple of rehearsals, but to even step it up a notch. Constantly be thinking ahead. NEVER WAIT for some to tell you to stop talking, mark off your spot, or get to attention. Make it habit and band rehearsals will be unbelievably productive! I'd also like to urge students to ask their friends to come support you and their favorite band perform at events such as football games and marching festivals! It would be great hearing more people cheer our name.

Parents, last month I asked you to try to be more involved in your student's band lives. I would like to stress that point again. I was told by another parent that there were very few parents that attended September's Booster Meeting. Those meetings are for you, Mr. Smith would not have those meetings if they were not important. I urge you to come to the monthly booster meetings, football games, marching festivals, etc. Even come to one of our marching band rehearsals held every Tuesday and Thursday.

Instead of waiting in your car to pick up your child, you might come to the practice field (baseball field) and watch the last 20-30 minutes of rehearsal, just to get another aspect of what your child does in band. With this being said, I completely understand most parents work, and that you can't attend every band function because life itself is busy. All I ask is that you try.

Thanks!

Dawson Dew- Comeaux Band President



## **RHYTHM in BLEU to NEW ORLEANS**

Rhythm in Bleu will participate in the VIP Dance Competition in March 2017 at the St. Bernard Cultural Center. St. Bernard is located just south of New Orleans as Youngsville is to Lafayette.

Plans are to leave campus on Thursday, March 16th after school and travel to St. Bernard. While in St. Bernard the line will visit the Audubon Zoological Gardens and Aquarium of the Americas, tour the French Quarter enjoy dinner at the Hard Rock Cafe` and go on a Ghost Tour of the Quarter Saturday night. The competition will take place on Sunday, March 19th and, upon completion, the line will depart St. Bernard for Comeaux High school.

The Trip Commitment form was mailed on September 21st. The commitment form is due on October 3rd. No payment is due until November 1st. When a student submits a commitment form they will receive a Trip Payment Form. All students are encouraged to participate in the trip. Participation by all members of the ensembles is crucial for them to perform at their very best.

Thursday, March 9, 2017 will be the trip meeting. All students who are participating must have one parent/guardian in attendance at the trip meeting. Please mark your calendars now for the trip meeting, Thursday, March 9, 2017.

## **MARCHING BAND ADJUDICATION??**

A festival is an event where ratings are given (1 - superior, 2 - excellent, 3 - good, 4 - fair, 5 - poor). A competition usually includes ratings, but also ranks ensembles, in some cases only the top three in each class and over-all. The students, staff and directors put many hours of hard work into preparing the competition drill and music. So, what's it all for, what are "they" looking for.

The adjudicators (judges) are looking and listening for all that's happening on the field. Their comments can be very subjective, but there are some guidelines that are followed. The comments are intended to help the ensemble improve on what it has been working on during the season.

What's most important music or marching? Well, in most professional's opinions it's all about the music. Not to say that the marching can be subpar, but the music is usually a larger percentage of the score than the marching. There are many aspects of the musical performance that are judged. The quality of tone of the individual and ensemble are of utmost importance. Ensemble pitch and blend are crucial to a good musical performance. The balance of the ensemble is vital to a good sound. If individuals or sections are "standing out" from the rest of the band it could be considered an unbalanced sound. Proper style, including articulation, note length and weight of the music being performed is essential to a good performance. Maintaining proper tempo in the ensemble and across the field is important to a successful performance. All of this must be the thought of in a split second continually during the performance, all while concentrating on the drill and body movements.

As to the marching aspect of the performance, here to, there are many aspects to consider. Marching style across the band should be uniformed. Step size and style, body carriage, instrument posture should be identical across the band and/or section. Maintaining interval left to right and front to back must be consistent throughout the ensemble.

Horn moves and body movements should be uniformed throughout the band. The actual drill writing and conception has an impact on the scoring of the ensemble.

Other units or parts of the band are judged individually and usually have no bearing on the ensemble's over-all score. The percussion section is judged on their ability to play fundamentally well, keeping time for and with the band, balance and blend not only with the band, but within the section. Does the percussion writing fit well with the wind parts both Battery (marching) and Front Ensemble (melodic and trap instruments). The Color Guard is also adjudicated. They are judged on their artistry, as well as, their choreography and equipment work. Part of the score is based on the writing of the equipment work and choreography. The majority of the score is based on the execution of these areas. Drum Majors are judged at some festivals, but not all. When they are judged the areas of concern are: conducting technique, tempo management, field commands, cuing of entrances and how accurately the various drum majors can mimic each other.

So next the next time you're at a marching festival or competition, just think of the many areas that are being adjudicated. This is why so many hours of hard work and sweat go into the preparation of the performance. It's no easy task to achieve a superior marching performance.

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## **BAND TRIP TO SAN ANTONIO 2017**

The band is planning a trip to San Antonio, TX from April 5-9, 2017. The Wind Symphony and Symphonic Band will participate in the Heritage Festival of Music. All members of the Concert Band are strongly encouraged to participate as they will likely be performing in next year's trip. All guard members are also welcome to participate as well.

The band will visit the River Walk, dine at Casa Rio, visit the Alamo, go to Sea World and Fiesta Texas and enjoy the festival awards dinner at Fiesta, Texas. Breakfast will be provided daily including one morning at the Hard Rock Cafe`.

The Trip Commitment form was mailed on September 21st. The commitment form is due on October 3rd. No payment is due until November 1st. A payment form will be given to the student when he/she submits the commitment. All students are encouraged to participate in the trip. Participation by all members of the ensembles is crucial for them to perform at their very best.

Thursday, March 23, 2017 will be the trip meeting. All students who are participating must have one parent/guardian in attendance at the trip meeting. Please mark your calendars now for the trip meeting, Thursday, March 23, 2017.

**CONTACT INFO**

Band Office: 981-1096      100 West Bluebird St., Lafayette, LA 70508

**Chris Smith**

Director of Bands  
cbsmith@lpssonline.com  
337-303-5851 cell

**Scott Geiger**

Associate Director of Bands  
sdgeiger@lpssonline.com  
337-573-5393 cell

**BOOSTER MEETINGS**

October 27  
November 17  
January 19  
February 16  
March 23  
April 20  
May 18

Meetings begin at 6:30  
in the band room.

**BOOSTER CHAIRPERSONS**

<b>BAND SECRETARY</b>	<b>Kathleen Prather</b>	349-3060
<b>BINGO SCHEDULE</b>	<b>Nicole Choplin</b>	224-4442
<b>BOARD MEMBERS</b>		
President	<b>Krista Sansone</b>	654-0896
Vice– President	<b>Christy Dew</b>	303-3489
Treasurer	<b>Stephanie Choate</b>	501-2464
Secretary	<b>Sostan Babineaux</b>	519-6131
Public Relations	<b>Tom Coleman</b>	214-549-1492
Dance Rep.	<b>Barbara Comeaux</b>	298-8774
Guard Rep.	<b>Tonia Young</b>	212-4891
General Member	<b>Kathleen Prather</b>	349-3060
<b>CAR SHOW</b>	<b>Tony/Kelli Touchet</b>	739-6072
<b>CAR WASH</b>	<b>Margueritte Hoffman</b>	581-0369
	<b>Marla Ours</b>	349-8100
<b>CONCERT GREETER</b>	<b>Stephanie Choate</b>	501-2464
<b>CRAWFISH BOIL</b>	<b>Carey Lavergne</b>	207-9323
<b>CHAPERONES</b>	<b>Christy Dew</b>	303-3489
<b>CONCESSIONS</b>	<b>Jessica Couvillon</b>	517-6825
<b>EQUIPMENT CREW</b>	<b>Clayton Choate</b>	303-6036
<b>FISH FRY LUNCH</b>	<b>Alyson Trahan</b>	985-688-8215
<b>GUARD SHOW</b>	<b>Tonia Young</b>	212-4891
<b>UNIFORM MOM</b>	<b>Mindy Portier</b>	344-8422
<b>HYDRATION-MEDICAL</b>	<b>Heather Moore</b>	852-9814





## SPARTAN BAND SPONSORS 2016-17

When possible please patronize these establishments and vendors. Without these sponsors the Comeaux Band would not be able to accomplish it's many endeavors. If you're able thank them for their support of the "*Spectacular Band from Spartan Land.*"

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*3D International Custom Sign & Design*

*Adrien's Supermarket*

*Albertson's Supermarket*

*Congress Cleaners*

*Comeaux Backers*

*Heleaux's Grocery*

*Home Depot*

*Lafayette Music, Co.*

*Little Caesars Pizza*

*Nouveau Photo*

*NuNu's Fresh Market*

*Pizza Village*

*Scott's Drum Center*

*Texas Roadhouse*