

February 11, 2008

Dear Orange HS Band Students and Parents,

My name is Marc Zirille and I am your band director at our new high school. This upcoming school year will be my ninth as a teacher. I have taught in the Johnstown-Monroe Local Schools for the past eight years as a band director in a school district of 1,200 students. This was my first and only job after graduating in November, 2000 from Ohio University. I was responsible for the entire instrumental music program of the district that required me to teach band for all grades 5 through 12. I have gained much knowledge in my time there, not only as a band leader, but also as an educator.

I feel that our nickname, Pioneers, is very appropriate as we build this new band program. I think that each and everyone one of us is a true Pioneer in that we are responsible for building school spirit and pride, new traditions, and basically provide the heartbeat for what our new school will be built around. It is an awesome responsibility that we, as a band, should take very seriously. We have been given a great opportunity, one in which I want to build great moments for many years to come.

As an educator working with your children, my goal is simple. I want to build self-confidence within my students so that they may enter college and/or the workforce with self-pride and a sense of worth. I want to build within my students a value of hard work and dedication, two virtues I feel will serve them well in whatever career field they choose. The instrument that I use to achieve these goals is music. By building strong students with pride and dedication, you build a strong band program. I believe the concert band should be the focus of the program, because all successful elements of a band program are derived from a strong concert program. I also believe the purpose of a marching band is to provide a link between the school system and its community. Our number one priority is to support our school, its teams, and our community.

Every school has to have a band, and every band has to have its leaders. We will not have an individual field commander, but instead many squad and section leaders throughout the band. Every section within the band is equally important to all of its other parts. (I am including our color guard with this statement) Each student will be responsible for learning their music, marching assignments, dance breaks, etc... However, it will be up to our squad leaders to make sure we are practicing and performing to a high standard. We should always practice as if we are performing, for this philosophy equals success. (both on the field and off)

In closing, I hope that every one of you accepts this challenge of joining the first band of Orange High School. I believe that the Marching Pioneers will be a great source of pride for you, your parents, your classmates, and your community. I am very much looking forward to this great opportunity, and you will get the very best that I have to offer. Much of the information you are getting tonight is general, but I am working on a website that will provide up-to-date progress of our band and will be sending out specifics (costs, practice times, performances) as they become available. I hope you enjoy the meeting tonight and I am looking forward to meeting all of you and memorizing your names. :0)

Sincerely,

Marc Zirille  
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