

James M. Sammons, Band Director
Page Howell, Associate Band Director
Priscilla Sammons, Auxiliary Director
Brandon Putzke, Percussion Director

Band Office Phone - 564-5413
Band Emergency Cell Phone - 532-9884
Band E-Mail - veroband@yahoo.com

Special points of interest:

July 27, 2010

- Band Camp Weeks One-Two
- See Times & Dates
- See What to Bring
- See Rules / Policies



Band Website:
www.band.vero-beach.fl.us

Welcome to Band Camp 2010
Monday August 2-August 6th &
Sunday August 8th - Friday August 13th

Notes From the Directors:

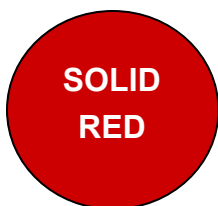
The "**Pride**" is back in town. Soon the rhythmic cadence of the drum line, the flash of flags flying, and the stirring sounds of our fight song will fill the air all across Vero Beach signaling that the "**Pride of the Treasure Coast**"... **No Ordinary Band of Indians!**... is back in town gearing up for another exciting fall season. The excitement and sounds of Friday night "Fighting Indians" Football can be heard for miles around and you as a member of the band assume a very special role in the VBHS family and tradition.

During our first week of camp we will be focusing on the fundamentals of music and marching performance building a solid foundation for the application of our music to drill as we begin to learn our field show. Attendance at this week and the mastery of fundamentals is a requirement for our success and each student must earn their final position in the show during this critical time. Please refer to our attendance policies regarding camp participation under the week one and week two specifics located on pages 2 and 3 of this newsletter.

We have a dramatic football show planned. "Masterworks" is sure to wow our Citrus Bowl fans at halftime and we are looking forward to good music, friends, and fun during our band camp. Special activities will include our "Family Picnic on Sunday afternoon, "Fun and Games" on Monday, Skating on Tuesday, Swimming on Wednesday, R & R on Thursday, and our "Skits and More" / "Camp Dance / Pizza Party" (with live DJ) on Friday night. We expect everyone to work hard but play hard too.

Throughout this newsletter is information regarding band camp, location, and other information. Students and parents are reminded take a look at the band website and calendar to stay updated. Medical Forms and Contracts must be on file by the beginning of camp. Also arrangements must be made for camp payment or scholarship assistance .

We are very excited about the 2010-11 Band and are looking forward to a great band camp experience. We are glad to have you on board as a "Fighting Indians" Band Member.



"It's about Pride"!

VERO BEACH HIGH SCHOOL "FIGHTING INDIANS" BAND

Band Camp News 2010

Thirty Years Ago... A Personal Reflection

Thirty years ago on July 1, 1980, I first unlocked the door to the "Fighting Indians" Band Room located at that time directly across the hall from the present day band room to find a hot dark and dingy room with various shades of green shag carpet on the floor, ancient wooden chairs, rusty-wobbly music stands, and egg crates on the wall for sound attenuation. There was no instrument, uniform, or library inventory nor a even a list of students who were to be in the band on that first day. After combing through piles of handwritten student schedules in the guidance office, I was able to come up with twenty seven students who were signed up for band most of whom were flute players or drummers. I dropped by to give an update to our Principal, Mr. John Witt who proudly proclaimed that the band had funds in the band account totaling \$400.00 that I could spend on anything we might need. He explained that the previous year was a good fundraising year for the band and that he was pleased to have such a high reserve left-over.

As I returned back to the band room to move into my office and unpack a few memorabilia I had brought down to Vero from my two previous positions, my confidence in my decision to relocate to Vero Beach along with my wife and one year old son was on shaky ground. We had moved our mobile home to a park out by I-95 and Route 60 and on the drive back home late in the afternoon, I wandered what I would tell my wife about my day and how I might be able put a good face on the situation as we had built and now left a very respectable band program back in north Florida. The reality of the "Fighting Indians" Band was quite different from the picture painted in the interview for the job and it was clear why I was not allowed to see the band room or meet anyone connected with the band when I visited the school.

However over the course of the next few days I began the process of meeting some of the students and parents. We scheduled our first band rehearsal with around 40 students mostly new members and a scattering of returning members attending. The harsh reality was that there was a long way to go and a short time to get there as band camp was rapidly approaching with no music or show planned, a low number of students participating, few dollars to spend, and worn out or broken equipment.

As summer band progressed we gained steadily in numbers, Mr. Witt came up with some repair money, and I decided to repeat my football show from my previous year as it would work musically and the drill could be adapted for the smaller Vero Band. Band Camp was the 2nd week in August and we departed Vero with 70 members. Camp was long and hard as was the season with all the changes and challenges for my family, the band, and for myself. It was tough working with no phone in the band room, no copy machine, a hand held megaphone for field rehearsals, the drivers ed. range for a practice field, poor instruments and instrumentation, along with a lack of respect from the school and community.

By November we had our show polished and down, had won over the football fans, kids had switched to needed instruments, parents were raising funds, our football team was winning big, and we received the first set of what was to become thirty consecutive years of straight superior ratings at the Florida Bandmasters District Marching Band Festival (known as MPA today). The "Fighting Indians" Band was poised to begin the journey to join the ranks of Florida's best.

As I begin my thirtieth year as the director of the "Fighting Indians" Band, I am as excited now as I was afraid and skeptical on that first day back in July 1980. I am truly grateful to my family for their enduring support throughout the many transformations and life-changing events that have come our way during these many years and for making the Vero Band a family endeavor. I am ever mindful of the blessings of those who have worked side by side with me as faithful assistant directors. I am truly grateful to the hundreds of dedicated students and parents who have enriched my life and made this journey possible and to our school and community for their great support both personally and for the band. I am proud to have added my past thirty years to the previous fifty years of "Fighting Indians" Band history and look forward to adding more as we shape 2010 into the best year ever.

Respectfully,

James M. Sammons, Band Director

Band Camp - Week One @ VBHS

Monday, August 2nd – Friday, August 6th

All members of the band (**flags, percussion, and winds**) are required to attend camp each day. Participation this week is not considered an option. Camp is held daily on the main campus of VBHS from **8:00 am until 3:30 pm Monday – Thursday and Friday from 8:00 am – 12:45 pm**. Band Room opens at 7:30 am daily. Students are expected on campus no later than 7:45 am. Parent pick-up will be at 3:30 pm Monday – Thursday and at 12:45 pm on Friday. Positions in the football show drill will be finalized on Friday. All persons in regular attendance during camp and who demonstrate appropriate marching fundamentals and musical progress during the week will be assigned a definite spot in the show. Students not in attendance at Band Camp - Week One are not guaranteed a spot in the field show and may be assigned an alternate spot in the show. Any absences this week must be pre-arranged and approved in advance or due to an unforeseeable family or personal emergency.

The lunch break is from 10:45 am – 11:15 am daily. Lunch will be on campus and students need to bring food with them in a cooler. Please do not depend on parents or others to deliver food as we may need to change the schedule around due to weather issues. **Students are not allowed to leave campus at any time during the day without advance approval from the Director's.**

Please dress in light loose fitting clothing and wear tennis shoes. All dress must meet the VBHS school dress code. Hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen are a must. Also please hydrate yourself and eat a healthy breakfast and lunch daily. Make sure to bring your official band cooler (new members will get their cooler on Monday at camp). Please fill water coolers before arrival at school. Health Forms and Band Contracts must be on file in order to attend band camp.

URGENT! You need bring a change of clothes each day to band camp in the event you get wet during one of the outdoor rehearsals!

URGENT REMINDER: We have a limited number of spots in the football show. These will be awarded to those students that are accountable with their participation at both weeks of camp. **Attendance at Band Camp each day for the full day is mandatory.** Students who miss any day or a portion of a day of band camp week two can expect to have their spot on the field eliminated.

Band Camp Cost and Payments

The cost of Band Camp is \$175.00 per person. Final payment is due on **Monday, August 2nd**. Please make your check to: "Fighting Indians Band Boosters, Inc." This will include Dinner Monday through Thursday and all recreational activities and other expenses. Please place payments in the **SILVER BOX** located in the band room.

Issuing Concert and Marching Band Uniforms (Winds & Percussion Only)

Tuesday, August 3rd - Percussion and Waist Sizes 36" and above 3:30 – 5 pm

Wednesday, August 4th - Waist Sizes 30" to 35" 3:30 – 5 pm

Thursday, August 5th - Waist Sizes 29" and below 3:30 – 5 pm

Friday, August 6th - Make-Up Fittings (Any size) 12:45 - 1:30 pm

Please understand that over 170 musicians have to be fitted for both Concert and Marching Uniforms. This is likely to take a some time... your patience is appreciated.

Please wear shorts that are similar to loose athletic / basketball type shorts. Please bring your marching shoes to the fittings. Students are asked to bring a parent to the fitting in order to sign the uniform contract. **You are asked to pay all or part of the \$75.00 cleaning fee at this time.** Please make checks to Fighting Indians Band Boosters, Inc. (FIBB for short).

Week Two Band Camp Information

Sunday August 8th – Friday August 13th

For this year band camp will be held on the Main Campus at Vero Beach High School each day. As per tradition and established practice, **attendance at band camp is mandatory for all students.** It is our plan to preserve as many of the benefits and traditions of having camp out of town as possible.

Attendance at camp is required each day for the full day as scheduled. With the exception of serious personal illness or serious family emergency, students who miss any portion of band camp rehearsal time, will forfeit their spot in the show and be placed on the alternate list. **The door is not open for exceptions and negotiations regarding attendance at camp, late arrival, or early departure.** No student appointments or other distractions from rehearsals will be allowed. The general rehearsal start and dismissal times for camp are as follows...

Sunday - 2 to 8:45 pm

Monday thru Thursday - 7:30 am to 8:45 pm

Friday - 7:30 am to 12:00 Noon



Note: Report and Sign In begins 30 minutes prior to start and parent pick-up is 15 minutes after dismissal

In addition, the band directors are generally not available before, during, or after practice as they are conducting camp business related to the administration of camp, instructing students, or meeting with teaching staff. If contact with one of the directors is necessary, please leave a message on the band room phone. **Do not use e-mail.** For an actual emergency, use the band emergency contact phone number.

Students will be asked to bring their own lunch daily Monday - Thursday. **Lunch will be from 11:15 am - 11:45 pm.** Dinner Sunday through Thursday will be provided as part of the camp participation cost. The cost of recreational activities is included in the camp cost.

On Sunday afternoon, August 8th, we will have a “Band Family Cookout” from 4:00 to 5:30 pm on the school grounds. Band families are invited to join their students and the band staff for a relaxed meal and get acquainted time. More details will be on the website about this activity.

Each afternoon of camp from 11:45-2:30 pm we will have recreational and optional rest activities for everyone. The following activities are included as part of the band camp cost. Students are expected to remain with the band and participate in these events as a team.

Monday Afternoon – Fun & Games / Skit Prep. / Rest @ VBHS

Tuesday Afternoon – Movie (Off Campus - Transportation Provided) OR on campus rest

Wednesday Afternoon – Swimming (off campus - Transportation Provided) OR on campus rest

Thursday Afternoon – Skit Prep. / Rest @ VBHS

Friday Night – Skits (7:00 pm) & Dance / Pizza Party (8:00-10:30 pm) @ VBHS

Please refer continually to the VBHS Band Calendar and band website for updates.

If you intend to take advantage of the “REST” opportunities during camp, you will need to bring a pad or blanket for the floor. The “REST” area will be in the cafeteria for entire the recreation time and will be supervised. No other areas of the campus may be used during “REST” time.



Chaperone Information

If you would like to chaperone band camp or any other band activity, contact Wendy Griffin @ 633-7683 or Karen Morris @ 978-0439. Chaperone requests or volunteer information can be e-mailed to...

fibbchaperone@hotmail.com



General Band Camp Week Two Schedule
See Website for Specifics



Sunday — August 8th:
1:30 pm - Report to the **Band Room** to take care of any business and other concerns before the general meeting.
2:00 pm - General meeting in the Performing Arts Center followed by Music / Flag Corps rehearsals.
4:00 pm - Family Cook-Out on front lawn of VBHS Campus. Fun, Food, Games.
6:00 pm - Field Rehearsal Begins @ Field.
8:45 pm - Parent Pick-up (note: staff supervision of students ends at **9:00 pm**. Please make sure all students are off campus each evening by this time.

Monday through Thursday - August 9-12
7:00 am - Arrival @ VBHS Band Room.
7:30 am - Rehearsals Begin @ Field.
11:15 am - Lunch (Bring Your Own).
12:30 pm - Recreation Activities (All students are re-quired to remain with the band during this time and are encouraged to actively participate or rest).
2:30 pm - Music / Flag Corps Rehearsals.
5:00 pm - Dinner @ VBHS Cafeteria (Provided by Band)
6:00 pm - Field Rehearsal Begins.
8:45 pm - Parent Pick-up (note: staff supervision of students ends at **9:00 pm**. Please make sure all students are off campus each evening by this time.

Friday, August 14th:
7:00 am - Arrival @ VBHS Band Room.
7:30 am - Rehearsal Begins (Show Review).
10:30 am - Final Rehearsal & Run-through of Show.
 ***Parents, alumni, and friends are welcome to attend the final morning rehearsal.
12:00 Noon - Camp Dismissed (Parent Pick-up).

Emergency Phone - 772-532-9884
 This number is for serious immediate family emergency only! Example: family member in serious accident or medical situation or death in the family. Please do not call this number for matters that do not rise to this level of urgency. You may need to leave a message as your call most likely will not go through directly.



Availability of Band Directors and Staff During Camp Weeks
 The Band Directors will likely NOT be available during camp hours as they are conducting camp business related to the administration of camp, instructing students, or meeting with teaching staff. If contact with one of the directors is necessary, please leave a message on the band room phone. Do not use e-mail. For an actual emergency, use the band emergency contact phone number.

VBHS Campus Closed
 As a general policy, the campus areas and buildings used for band camp (including the practice field) is closed to visitors during the weeks of band camp with the exception of Friday morning of week two. We ask that everyone respect our camp hours and refrain from visits or interruptions of any kind during camp hours.

Conduct and Discipline
 Exemplary conduct, discipline, attitude, and good manners are expected of all members of the band. In the rare event that an issue should arise where the actions of a student are in violation of school or band policy to the degree that disciplinary consequences are required by the school administration, the school Principal will be notified and the parent will be contacted to make arrangements for the student to go home. The student will not participate in any aspect of the band program until the Principal has settled the situation with the student, parent, and band directors.

Band Camp Tips for Success & Survival (Weeks One and Two)

Visitors to camp are discouraged except on Week Two, Friday morning for the final rehearsal. Distractions from the business of camp are not allowed. Parent meetings during camp week are also discouraged. Students are expected to remain at camp until dismissal of each evening.

Dress for rehearsals... light weight and color, cool, comfortable, and frumpy (big and loose)... in good taste... must be covered for sun protection at all times. Shoulders should be covered for sun protection along with a hat or cap and sun lotion to prevent burns. Tennis shoes with athletic socks are also required for rehearsals.

Money for misc. expenses during recreation is suggested (example: snacks). We suggest that you bring your own change (Quarters ect). Dinner is provided along with light snacks during the morning rehearsal are provided with your camp fee.

Snacks for the afternoon and lunch each day are the responsibility of each student. You should bring a "good" supply of a variety of healthy items that you enjoy. NOTICE: DO NOT BRING CAFFINATED ENERGY DRINKS!

Hydration & Nutrition is the overall responsibility of the student. Each student should hydrate each evening before going to bed and drink at least 16 ounces of water one hour before arrival at camp. A healthy breakfast with protein is important at least one hour prior to the arrival at camp. Lunches and snacks should be healthy with protein as well. Junk food and fast food are not recommended.

Medications needed during camp should be turned in to chaperones. Please label all containers with your name and any instructions and place them in a zip-lock bag. Please provide enough for the week only. Over the counter medications are not allowed! If there is something that you need, please have your parent brief the head chaperone on prior to camp departure.

Dance and Skits will be on Friday evening of week two. Dress is to be "Sunday" dress. This includes ties for gentlemen and nice dress or slacks outfits for ladies. Please refrain from inviting guests as this is an event for the "team". Please avoid jeans and tennis shoes and understand that while this is a dress up event, you may not wear "club type" dress. School dress code policy is expected.

Swimwear should be appropriate for a school activity. We are not "at the beach" and you do not have the freedom to wear swimwear that is "Tan-kinis Style". Modesty please!

Clothing should be selected with rehearsals, comfort, and **sun protection** in mind. We suggest that you bring a change of clothes to keep in your locker or bag in the event we should be rained on or if you feel that you will need to change before or after recreation.

Label and Mark all personal items such as bags, instruments, water bottles, folders, along with any item that can get mixed up with other similar items among your band peers.

Cell Phones – Only as allowed in cell phone policy – See attachment and band hand book.

Electronics should be left at home. The band is not responsible for lost items.

Courtesy and Respect for everyone is a band tradition.

School Policy and Band Rules are in force at all times (24 / 7) at all band activities. Follow them without exception!



What to Bring to Camp

Swimwear & Beach Towel for (Wednesday Wk 2)	Change of shoes or clothes in the event we are rained on or if you think you want to change before or after recreation. Keep these in your locker or a bag.	Spending Money for snacks or misc. during recreation.
Sun Block 30 or up	Sun Glasses	Hat or Cap
Back Pack or Utility Bag for personal items	Lunch Each Day and Light Snacks	Band Water Cooler (This is the only cooler serviced by the chaperones)

Water Cooler

Each new student is being provided a water cooler for their personal use during camp at no cost. Returning students will use their cooler from last year. **Returning students who need a cooler must contact Michelle Atkinson immediately to order a replacement.** Only the cooler provided by the band will be allowed in field rehearsal and only the cooler provided by the band will be serviced by the chaperone

Cell Phone Policy

It is strongly recommended that cell phones not be brought to band events. The band staff, chaperones, and school will not assume nor accept any responsibility for loss or damage to cell phones.

All school policies regarding cell phones apply to all band situations. Students may use cell phones in band situations as follows:

- During breaks
- Free time
- Other as approved by the Director(s) or Chaperone(s)



Cell Phones may not be used as follows and must be turned off and out of sight:

- During any field rehearsal, section rehearsal, or meeting situation
- On busses except as approved by the Director(s) or Chaperone(s)
- Any organized group activity of the band

Cell phone use and possession will be restricted for the group or for individuals when used irresponsibly or when the use of or possession of cell phones distracts from legitimate band activities or compromises the safety of the group or individuals. Students may also be asked to turn in their cell phones to staff or chaperones at the beginning of band activities to be returned to the students at the conclusion of the activity.

It should be clearly understood that violations of cell policies and the resulting consequences will be fully enforced according to the established policies of the school.

Band Flip Flops

Available during the Family Picnic on Sunday August 8th at 4:00-5:30 pm and during band camp for \$20.00. Or, call Margaret at 234-2867.



Family Picnic and Cookout

Sunday - August 8th - 4-5:30 pm

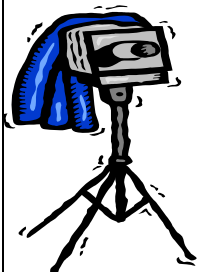
Under the Oaks in Front of VBHS

Everyone Invited



FIBB will provide the hotdogs and hamburgers and drinks. Families are asked to bring a dish to share. More details to come during week one of band camp.

Band Pictures
August 18th (Wed.)
12:30-5:00 pm



Please eat a good **lunch** and **hydrate** before you arrive for pictures!



It's Great to Be... a "Fighting Indian" Band Member!