

SHORTRIDGE MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BLUE DEVILS

A SUMMER IN REVIEW

Shortridge Jazz Band at the Strawberry Fest June 2012



Shortridge Magnet High School Band and Orchestra have a great music program under the direction of band director Kathy Spangler and orchestra director Nealita Callahan. They have been part of the IPS magnet program for three years. The 2012-2013 school year will be the first year for seniors to graduate from the relatively new magnet school. Change and reform in education takes time, but Shortridge is off to a great start with two of the best instrumental music teachers in IPS. The band/orchestra program has 257 students in the following groups: Advanced Band 75; Intermediate

Band 60; Jazz Band 18; Orchestra 50; and 6th Grade Band 55. Jim Stroh, retired IPS teacher and volunteer has been mentoring the French Horn section this year, and played with the advanced band for several summer concerts. According to Mr. Stroh, *"The students are well behaved and work hard. They respect their teachers and deserve our support."*

COMMUNITY SUPPORT: *"It takes a village to raise a child."*

- **BUTLER UNIVERSITY, a great partner for Shortridge:** The University provided the space and use of their dormitories to have a band camp for the last two years. This year has been especially challenging because of major cutbacks in funding to IPS.
- Shortridge struggled to raise the funds necessary to cover all of the costs of band camp (June 25-29), including the purchase of a used trailer to haul instruments to and from concerts and competitions. Through the generosity of a band supporter, the trailer was purchased and donated to the music program.
- **FUNDRAISING DISCUSSION: Trip to Disney World** - \$792 per student. For band of 60 members, the total cost is approximately \$47,500. Twenty-six (26) band students have committed for the trip; however, additional financial support is needed for most of the other students. The trip would be during Thanksgiving vacation for 3-4 days. Deadline for committing for the trip to Disney World is the end of September. Several self-help fundraising events have been ongoing for more than a year; and more are suggested: contact various media and community resources for coverage and support; use social media to spread the word about the success of Shortridge's Band; outreach to alumni that were band members during their years at Shortridge; communicate the project among the area businesses. If the goal of nearly \$47,500 is not reached, the money committed by parents of the 26 students would be returned, and all other donations would be kept in the Shortridge High School Band Association Fund for future use of the band.
- **The COMMUNITY BAND BOOSTERS** (parents and community members) will be **meeting 2nd Tuesday of each month from 6:00-7:00p** in the band room to discuss fundraising and volunteering needs of the band. Please join us if you have ideas on helping the band. Financial donations in any

amount will be greatly appreciated for the Shortridge Band Program; make your checks payable to Shortridge Magnet School Bands and mail to: **Shortridge Magnet High School, 3401 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46208**. If you cannot make a monetary donation but would like to help, following are ways that could make a huge difference in the lives of an urban city school music student.

- **Fund drive for Disney World trip – URGENT!!!**
- Mentoring the students by playing with the band on a “side-by-side concert”
- Donating a used instrument
- Donations for Instrument repair(s), new instruments for the future, and new music
- Driving and providing a vehicle with a hitch to attach a trailer for hauling instruments
- Chaperoning band trips and concerts
- Serving food during rehearsals and contests or before football/soccer games
- Volunteers for Lucas Oil Stadium concession fund raiser (Shortridge will receive a percentage of the profit. Need at least 11 adults to work at the concession stand for each game. {NOTE: Each volunteer must be approved by the State Alcoholic Beverage Commission for an alcohol beverage license to work in the concession stand.})

The band had one week of summer vacation, and then began rehearsing on June 25 for all of the summer competitions and State Fair Band Day (August 3rd). Regular practices will begin after school starts August 6th.

VOLUNTEER HELPERS: A hearty *THANK YOU* to all of the volunteers who helped this summer and were vital to the success of the Shortridge music program: **Percussion:** Sataria Carter, Matt Haughey, Greg Jukes; **Color Guard:** Nealita Callahan, Michael Henson, Nathan, Joel Ray; **Woodwind:** Amanda Bierer, Grant Pfifer; **Low Brass:** Randa Mason; **High Brass:** Jessica Mason; **Visual Tech:** David Grider; **Drill Writer:** Pat Butler; **Set Design:** Michael Henson. Through the efforts of these volunteers, teachers, and students, the Shortridge Marching Blue Devils entered the State Fair Band Day competition as the only IPS school. Their 25th place finish was the highest finish in the band’s 3-year existence.

REMAINING COMPETITION/PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:

September 15	Lawrence Central HS
September 22	Greenwood HS
September 29	ISSMA District Contest
October 5	Circle City Class Pep Rally
October 13	ISSMA Regional Contest
October 27	ISSMA Semi State Contest
November 3	ISSMA State Finals
November 7	IPS BOA Tournament
November 8	BOA Grand Nationals

For more information, contact Jim Stroh, retired IPS teacher and volunteer, cell: 317-409-7918 or Email:

strohjim@att.net or Kathy Spangler, band director, 317-226-2810. spanglek@ips.k12.in.us.