

**Jr/Sr. District Band  
February 5 & 6, 2010  
Holiday Inn Convention Center  
Exit 7, Bristol, VA**

January 21, 2010

District VII Directors:

Included in this packet is the information about the combined Jr/Sr District Band event at the Exit 7 Holiday Inn Convention Center in Bristol, VA. All rehearsals including the concert will take place at the Holiday Inn. Throughout the weekend, Dominion Music, Lippo Music Mart, ETSU, UVA-Wise, and Emory and Henry College will have booths set up for directors and students. Also, there will be a concession stand with snack food and drinks available throughout the weekend. Please encourage your students to purchase concessions from the VMS band boosters! This is a large motivator for me to continue to host this event.

There are still some rooms available at the Holiday Inn (276-466-4100). These rooms will only be held until Jan. 29 and the cost is \$89 plus tax. Check-in time is after 3:00 pm on Friday and check-out time is at 12:00 noon on Saturday. Students can store luggage in the Grand Ballroom on Friday and their rehearsal rooms on Saturday morning.

When directors arrive on February 6, students are to be seated in the Grand Ballroom. The registration table will be located in the hall between the Grand Ballroom and Presidential Ballroom near the bathrooms. Buses are to park in the rear of the building on the back side of the convention center. If students want to bring in their luggage, they may store it in the Grand Ballroom but it is encouraged to leave it on the bus until students check into the hotel.

Directors will need to mail the following items to me by Friday, January 29 - **Ben Parks, Virginia Middle School, 501 Piedmont Avenue, Bristol, VA 24201: copy of MENC card, District Band financial form, Student Registration Form, check for \$26.00 per student payable to Virginia Middle School for district band fees, and the \$5.00 for the VBODA fee.** On the financial form, there is a section for the VBODA \$5.00 fee. This fee is separate from the district band fee and it is only to be paid once for each school participating. When sending a check for the fees, you can just send one check for both the student fees and the state VBODA fee. As a reminder, if you are not a member of MENC, you will need to pay the \$105 non-member fee when you register your students. I cannot stress enough that the forms and fees need to be mailed early for the event. The fees provide the operating budget to pay the clinicians and the other costs.

Directors have been assigned times to assist the guest clinicians for the weekend. You will get this in your packet when you register. It is very important that directors are present during their assigned duties. The guest clinicians may need your assistance with behavior, copying extra parts, and percussion. We will also need some female directors to help when students are changing into their concert dress on Saturday in the female dressing rooms. During the director's meeting on Saturday, we will try to assign parents to each of the rooms so all directors can attend the meeting and participate in important district discussions and voting.

If you had students to audition at John Battle HS and none of your students were selected, you can send a student that auditioned as a representative of your school. That person will sit in the lowest chair in the Concert Bands. If you are sending a representative, David Semones will need to know before the event so that the name can be changed in the program and a name tag and certificate can be printed.

If a student is not able to attend the District Band event, please contact David Semones (dsemones@wcs.k12.va.us or 739-3712) as soon as possible. David will be taking care of alternates this year. Please ask your students this week if they plan to attend. There are lots of alternates who would like the opportunity to participate in the event. Having dealt with this in the past, this is a reminder to directors and students that students are to participate both days of the event in its entirety. If a student cannot be at the event for the entire weekend, we will need to contact an alternate.

Meals will not be provided again this year at the Holiday Inn and schools will be responsible for their own transportation for all meals. At exit 7, students can eat at Wendy's, Dairy Queen, Fazoli's, Taco Bell, Subway, and Bojangles. At exit 5 (5 minutes away), students can eat at Arby's, McDonald's, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Burger King, Hardees, Shoney's, and Long John Silvers. It will be difficult to get a group fed in an hour and half at one of the nicer restaurants in Bristol like Outback, Logans, O'Charleys, and Ruby Tuesday. You may want to save one of those restaurants for dinner instead of lunch.

We are asking that students stay out of Cabaret and their rooms during rehearsals, breaks, or meal times unless they are escorted by a chaperone or band director. Supervision during these times is a must! We are also asking that students wear their name tags at all times during the clinic.

On Friday night, rehearsals will end at 6:30 pm and the Radford University Jazztet (jazz combo) will perform for all of the students and directors. At 7:30 pm, students can check-in their rooms, eat dinner, and participate in evening activities. There are numerous evening activities to do in Bristol. The Bristol Mall is located at Exit 1 and is open till 9 pm. There is a food court located inside on the second floor. Tinseltown Movie Theatre is located across the street from the convention center and movie tickets are \$7.50. A movie listing is available on-line at [www.cinemark.com](http://www.cinemark.com) at zip code 24201. Also, Interstate Bowling is available on Linden Drive (same street as Holiday Inn). Shoe rental is \$2.00 and games cost \$3.50 per person. You may want to reserve early since it has been difficult to get a lane in the past.

The Director's meeting will be in the Presidential Ballroom F-G at 9:30 AM on Saturday. If you have any questions concerning the meetings, please see or contact Cindy Roberts, District VII Chairman.

In the case of inclement weather, a decision will be made the day before the event due to contracts with the Holiday Inn. Directors should check the [www.vboda7.org](http://www.vboda7.org) website for possible changes in the district band schedule or possible cancellations.

The concert attire is to be determined by individual band directors although most schools wear black and white. Magnetic Memories will record and pre-sell CD orders for \$18.00 again this year.

In addition, David Holsinger will be premiering his commissioned piece: *Solemn Hymn and Rowdy Dance* with the Sr. Symphonic band. Mark has the music and will be posting the parts on the vboda7 website soon so Sr. Symphonic members may start

working on it for an outstanding performance.

We hope that your students have a pleasant and memorable clinic. We would like to thank Gary Holley, Beverly Campbell, Mark Collins, Cindy Roberts, David Semones, Tom Hopson, and Uley Daniels for their help and use of their equipment for this event. Also, if you are available Thursday, February 4, we will be setting up the event throughout the day and evening at the Holiday Inn. As well, we could also use some help in breaking down the equipment after the concerts on Saturday night.

District Band Committee,  
Ben Parks, Virginia MS  
Bob Ballengee, Glade Spring/Damascus MS  
David Semones, Patrick Henry HS

#### 2010 Guest Clinicians

Sr. Symphonic - Dr. David Holsinger, Lee University, TN  
Sr. Concert - David Romines, Mary Wood University, PA  
Jr. Symphonic - Dr. Brian Amaral, White County MS, Cookeville, TN  
Jr. Concert - Kimberly Hutchinson, Ross Robinson Middle School, Kingsport, TN

#### Send items to Virginia Middle School by Jan. 29:

(501 Piedmont Avenue, Bristol, VA 24201)

1. Copy of MENC card
2. Financial Form
3. Student Application Form
4. Check for \$26.00 per person  
(payable to Virginia Middle School)
5. VBODA event fee: \$5.00  
(this fee can be added to the student fee check)

\*only school checks and band booster checks will be accepted, please don't send personal checks or cash

#### Contact Information for Ben Parks:

1. School Phone number - (276) 821-5660 (school number, no band room phone)
2. Home Phone - (276) 466-8428
2. Cell Phone - (423) 571-0039
3. E-mail - [bparks@bvps.org](mailto:bparks@bvps.org)