

**Monacan High School Bands
11501 Smoketree Drive
Richmond, Virginia 23236**

December, 2007

Dear Parents:

Entering high school is a giant step forward in every child's educational journey. Your child is facing some important decisions that will have a long-term impact on his or her life. Often young people fear the added workload of the high school curriculum and assume they will not have time to participate in the music program. That is simply not true! Ironically, it is often the continuation of musical studies that serves as the transitional key to success in high school. Being a member of a music ensemble ensures instant acceptance into a respectable organization at the onset of freshman year. A group of supporting friends is already established with a firm sense of "belonging."

There is more. As a parent, you need to know that:

- Research shows that when music is included in a student's daily learning, reading, writing, and math scores improve.
- There is a high correlation between positive self-perception, high cognitive competence scores, healthy self-esteem, total interest in school activities, and the study of music.
- College admissions officers often give special consideration to students who are part of their high school music programs.
- The longer an individual studies music, the higher his or her scores tend to be on both the verbal and math portions of the SAT exam.
- Employers often seek out students who are part of their high school music program because of the student's ability to solve problems and work well with all kinds of people.

I hope that your child will choose to continue to be involved in music by becoming a member of the Monacan Band. Please refer to the attached letter for information on classes we offer, along with information on the extra-curricular Marching Chiefs. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions concerning this vitally important decision. I join you in your commitment to the best education possible for your child.

Sincerely,

Jenny Ryan
Band Director, Monacan High School
(804) 378-2480 ext. 235
Jennifer_Ryan@ccpsnet.net