



Take Note

Newsletter of the Hersey Instrumental Association

March 2010
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Hersey Instrumental Association

an affiliate of:

The John Hersey High School Bands
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2009-2010 HIA Board

President: Jill Birschbach

Vice President: Sheri Hess

Project Chair: Jorgia Connor

Treasurer: Cathy Busse

Recording Secretary: Laura DiVietro

Corresponding Secretary: Linda Takei

General Information:
herseybandinfo@herseyband.com

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR INCOMING FRESHMEN

Mark your calendars!
Freshman Orientation Meeting for incoming freshmen and parents

Monday April 12
6:30 to 8:30
Band Room

See February newsletter on Hersey band website for additional details

Hersey Bands to Perform at Symphony Center!

Director's Message • Mr. Casagrande

[A reprint in case you missed this last month—with a few additions]

Thanks to our reputation for excellence, another outstanding opportunity has been presented to the Hersey Bands. We have been invited to share the Symphony Center stage with the Lockport HS bands on **St. Patrick's Day, Wednesday, March 17 at 7pm!** Both Hersey bands will share the stage with both Lockport HS bands on this date. The Symphony Center on Michigan Ave. is the concert and recording home to the Chicago Symphony and one of the finest and extravagant concert halls in the WORLD. In order to meet the budget for this, each student will be charged **\$50**, and seating will be general admission **FREE** for everyone that would like to attend. We hope to FILL THE HALL, so invite your extended family to attend. More details are forthcoming. This will be an amazing experience for our students! Students will receive bus transportation to Orchestra Hall and **parents are responsible for getting student home** after the concert. We are trying to keep the cost of this endeavor as low as possible.

It's That Time Again

President's Message • Jill Birschbach

This year's Chicagoland Invitational Concert Band Festival takes place on Saturday, April 10.

Currently, we have over 25 high school and middle school bands planning to attend the festival. In addition, the Northshore Concert Band and the Illinois Wesleyan Symphonic Band will be performing. It should be a fantastic day of wonderful music for us all.

As you probably already know, this is our major fundraiser for the year. The festival committee has been busy with behind the scenes planning and the students have been busy working on their music and soliciting ads for the festival. We ask for at least one volunteer from every family to help us, either on Friday night, April 9 or sometime during the day or evening on Saturday, April 10.

If you haven't had a chance to sign up for a volunteer job yet, please take a look at the volunteer list on the [Hersey band CICBF website](#) or [attached in this newsletter](#), and pick a job that looks interesting! There are still many to choose from. All these positions are essential to the smooth running of the festival. Thank you in advance for all of your help that day. We really appreciate your support. See you at the Festival!

Remember to mark your calendar! The next HIA General Meeting is on Monday, March 8 @ 7:30 in the band room.

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Sheri Hess • HIA Vice President

Once again, we must say thank you to our awesome volunteers! If you have a chance, say thanks in person!

Chaperones: Thanks to **Dave Landeweer**, **Sherrie Grischow**, **Carolyn Jarosz**, **Mike Nocita** and **Greg Fechik** for spending the day (and most of the evening) with our Jazz Ensemble II and the Hersey Percussionists as they tout their talents at New Trier and Vandercook.

Danny and Laura DiVietro said they had a wonderful time as they accompanied the Jazz Bands to Purdue. The upcoming Jazz in the Meadows, will be chaperoned by **Jill Birschbach**. Thanks, Jill!

Organizer of chaperones: A big thank you to **Noreen Coussens** for organizing the chaperones that keep our kids safe while they're out and about!

Videotaping/photos: Thanks again to **Denis Jones** and **Greg Holz** for taping and snapping pictures of the students during their performances so we all can enjoy the moment.

Thank you to all who responded about volunteering for the upcoming Chicagoland Invitational Concert Band Festival. I will be sending reminders and details about the job assignments sometime in March. If you have any questions, please [e-mail me](#). Every family is expected to volunteer at this event. It is our biggest fundraiser and truly takes a small army to run smoothly and be successful. If you have not yet signed up please visit the [Hersey band festival website](#) and click on the volunteers tab, or view the [list attached in this newsletter](#), choose a couple of jobs you are interested in then e-mail me. We have enough help for Friday set up but everything else is open. We are in great need of volunteers for the following positions: hall monitors, clinic monitors, homeroom monitors and stage coordinators!

In addition, we are looking for a few more volunteers for solo/ensemble contest on April 15 & 16. Please let me know if you are interested in helping us out for a few hours.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN OUR PROGRAM

Mr. Casagrande • Director

We have had several significant happenings in our schedule over the last month, arguably the busiest part of the year. On February 6, all three percussion ensembles performed at the **Vandercook Day of Percussion** to rave reviews. All groups performed extremely challenging literature for their ages. Congratulations!

Jazz Ensemble 2 made their annual trek to the **New Trier Jazz Festival** where they performed on the stage and were televised all over the world via the internet and the Chicago area on the radio. They heard performances by the DePaul University Big Band and the world renowned Village Vanguard Orchestra.

Jazz Ensemble 1 and 2 received a clinic from **Joel Spencer**, former Northwestern University director of jazz studies, in preparation for Jazz in the Meadows. **Dr. Joseph Manfredo**, professor of Music Education at the University of IL, conducted the Symphonic Band on their concert with BGHS and EGHS on Feb. 17. On March 9, the Concert/Cadet Band will also perform and rehearse with **Dr. Manfredo** as they participate in the District Concert Band Festival with the Buffalo Grove and Wheeling High School Concert Bands.

SOLO ENSEMBLE AT HERSEY, APRIL 15 & 16

Mr. Casagrande • Director

In order to spread out the "challenges" of the year, we have moved the Solo and Ensemble contest to Hersey, APRIL 15 & 16. We will no longer be participating in the IHSA contest that usually occurs the first Saturday in March.

Music testing and early March auditions are enough to keep our students busy at that time of the year and it will be easier for everyone (except me.....) to host it at Hersey. We'll provide a set of accompanists and a flat fee for everyone this year.

In addition, our policy is that **everyone** that takes private lessons in the Hersey band should be participating in Solo/Ensemble.

STUDENTS SHOULD HAVE REGISTERED THEIR SOLOS AND ENSEMBLES THE WEEK OF 1/25.

HERSEY AGAIN POSTS LARGE NUMBER OF FIRST CHAIR PLAYERS IN DISTRICT 214 HONOR GROUPS

Mr. Casagrande ♦ Director

On Wednesday, March 3 at 7:30 pm at the Forest View Educational Center, District 214 will host its annual Music Festival featuring the best band, choir and string students in District 214. Congratulations to the following 1st chair students:

Orchestra: Ilona Widomska, Kristin Holz, Erin Wells, Kevin Kerr, Kelly Nyquist

Band: Eric Chung, Andrew Kovacic, Melissa Neff, Andrew Birschbach, Andy Hess, Mark Swanson

MR. C TO CONDUCT THE US NAVY BAND

Mr. Casagrande ♦ Director

Just thought I would share a highlight of my career: At the beginning of March, I'll be inducted into the American Bandmasters Association, an organization started in the 20s by Henry Fillmore and John Philip Sousa.

All new members must conduct on one of the concerts and I'll be conducting "An Italian in Algiers" by Rossini with the US Navy Band from Washington D.C. as my "initiation." This is a reflection on the Hersey Band program, as well as my career, of course. I'll be the second youngest member of the group and one of only a few high school band directors.

HIA BOARD NOMINATIONS

Jill Birschbach ♦ HIA President

The HIA board nominations committee is working on a slate for the 2010-2011 school year. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Jill Birschbach via newsletter@herseyband.com.

HAITIAN RELIEF FUNDRAISER

Mr. Casagrande ♦ Director

The Hersey Fine Arts Department will be hosting a fundraising effort to support Haitian relief. When you attend a concert in the next two weeks, please consider donating to this fund and supporting our efforts.

SPRING AUDITIONS!

Mr. Casagrande ♦ Director

Auditions will soon begin and they will be similar to auditions in the past. Students will perform scales, an etude and sightreading. The etudes were distributed in class last week. All auditions will begin after school at 3:05 pm. Here is the schedule:

- 3/1: Flutes and Oboes
- 3/3: Clarinets
- 3/8: Bass Clarinets, Horns and Saxes
- 3/10: Trumpet
- 3/11: Bassoons
- 3/12: Low Brass
- 3/15: Percussion

USING YOUR STUDENT ACCOUNT

Cathy Busse ♦ HIA Treasurer

I have been receiving questions about payments for student private music lessons from student accounts. The form to initiate this process may be found on our [website](#). Click on "resources" and then go down to the "Form to Request Use of Student Account Funds for Private Lessons" link. You may choose a PDF or Word document. Please keep in mind the following guidelines:

- Payments can be made for lessons already taken or lessons to be taken in the future
- Please drop the private lesson form off in the payment box in Mr. Casagrande's office or [e-mail to Mr. Casagrande](#)
- Please include an invoice or receipt from the private lesson instructor
- Checks will be mailed within approximately 2 weeks of request
- Requests will not be accepted during the months of June through August, nor during December

Remember, your account balance may also be found on the [website](#). Please call or e-mail if you have questions and thank you for your assistance.

BAND CAMP 10-11! READ CAREFULLY

Mr. Casagrande • Director

Next Fall, the marching band will be competing in two or three competitions, to be determined. In August, particularly 8/9 to 8/13, we will be learning 75 percent of what is performed throughout the Fall season. A small portion of the June rehearsal time will be spent preparing for the July 4 parade. A majority of the June rehearsal time will be spent preparing Fall season material and fundamentals. Therefore, **regardless** of attendance at the July 4 parade, June/July rehearsals are EXTREMELY important.

Absences from Summer dates:

In the event of family vacations that conflict with June rehearsals, an explanation of conflict should be directed to Mr. C from the parents. Any summer camps are also excused; notify Mr. C immediately. Students should make sure that job schedules, etc. are adjusted. **August band camp rehearsals are mandatory for all. Freshmen are STRONGLY encouraged not to miss June rehearsals.**

Please adjust calendars and avoid conflicts with the following dates, **particularly in August:**

June (Students excused from these June/July dates in the event of family vacation)		
3	6 to 9 pm	All incoming Freshmen only and available section leaders
10	5:30 to 9	Section Leaders
	6 to 9 pm	Freshmen
28	5 to 8 pm	Section Leader Session/Dinner
29	5:30 to 9 pm	Section Leaders
	6 to 9 pm	Freshmen
	6 to 9 pm	Battery percussion only
30	5:30 to 9 pm	Section Leaders
	6 to 9 pm	ALL MEMBERS
July		
1	5:30 to 9 pm	Section Leaders
	6 to 9 pm	ALL MEMBERS
3 or 4	10 am	Report Parade
August		
5	3 to 4:30 pm	New section leaders
6	8 am to 5 pm	ALL section leaders
	12:30 to 5 pm	ALL Freshmen
9 to 13	12 pm to 9 pm	ALL
17	5 to 9 pm	Band section olympics
18 & 19	5 to 9 pm	ALL
	9 to 11 pm	Band activity
20	5:30 pm	Picnic/Parent Fall Preview
24	First day of school	

SAVE THE DATE!

Friday, May 21 Band Awards Banquet at Manzo's in Des Plaines

Invitation and information will be sent via separate e-mail.

For questions contact Christine Johnson via newsletter@herseyband.com

POP, SNAPPLE & WATER DONATIONS

Sharon Swanson • Lisa Farrington • Committee Co-chairs

The CICBF Food Committee Needs Your Help

We are asking that every family donate at least one case (24 cans) of name brand soda, Snapple, or water (0.5 liter bottles) to be sold at the festival. Please have your student bring it to the band room. Watch for sales!

Thanks in advance for your contributions!

MANNA GIFT CARDS FUNDRAISER

Laura Hynes • Kelly O'Neil • Program Co-chairs

Manna sales for February were \$15,826. Thanks to all those families that participated. Now it's time to look ahead to next month's special gift card opportunities – St. Patrick's Day parties, spring break vacations and Easter. There is a gift card for everything! It's never too late to start. In addition, your normal monthly purchases (groceries, prescriptions, gas, pet food, coffee) can put money in your student's account if you use a gift card instead of cash or credit. Remember – Manna is an important band fundraiser that helps you as well.

Ordering is done online. To place your first order, please contact Laura Hynes via newsletter@herseyband.com to receive your password and instructions. Once you have placed your order, submit a check payable to HIA in the Manna mailbox. If you would prefer to deliver a check directly to Laura ahead of time, please contact her. The next ordering/check deadline is **Wednesday, March 3 at 3 p.m.** Pick up will be on Wednesday, March 10. If you have any questions about the Manna program, please contact one of the co-chairs.

CONCERT BAND FEST – VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Sheri Hess • CICBF Volunteer Coordinator • volunteers@herseyband.com

We are already in the process of recruiting volunteers for the upcoming Concert Band Festival (April 9: set up, April 10: festival). Those who attended the last HIA meeting were able to get first pick of the volunteer slots.

This is a huge undertaking and **each family is expected to volunteer time during the Festival**. Below is a list of job descriptions and shift times. [E-mail Sheri Hess](mailto:sherihess@herseyband.com) with your volunteer request soon to get your first preference. This list of jobs/times may change VERY slightly as April gets closer but you will be notified if any change affects you in any way. Confirmation of your job assignment(s) and a reminder will be sent.

Homeroom Monitor – Each band is assigned to a homeroom. Homeroom monitors are stationed in various locations with a master key to lock and unlock the doors as the bands arrive and leave for the day's scheduled activities. In addition, the homeroom monitors provide guidance and answer simple questions for bands and guests. This job is ideal for parents who don't mind some "down time" during the day.

Shifts available (four volunteers per shift unless otherwise indicated): 10 to 1 pm ♦ 1 to 5 pm ♦ 5 to 9 pm ♦ 9 to 10 pm (only one volunteer needed)

Set Up Crew (Friday Evening) – Thank you everyone. These slots are filled.

Clean Up Crew – As possible, clean up will start taking place as soon as areas are no longer in use for the festival (some homerooms, warm-up rooms, concessions area, et. al.). If you are able to do both set up (Friday) and clean up (Saturday) it is very helpful (but certainly not required). Clean up generally takes until 11 pm. We will need 20-25 volunteers. Shift runs from approximately 8 to 11 pm

Stage Coordinators – The performance area stages need to be set up per the specifications of each band. There are two performance venues, so two coordinators will be required. Students will assist with the set up under the supervision of the coordinators.

Shifts available for Carter Gym (one volunteer per shift): 11 to 3 pm ♦ 3 to 6 pm ♦ 6 to 9 pm

Shifts available for Black Box Theatre (one volunteer per shift): 9 to 1 pm ♦ 1 to 4 pm ♦ 4 to 7 pm

Warm-up Room Monitor – Bands are provided with a room in which to warm up prior to their performance time. The warm-up monitor helps to keep the bands on schedule by keeping directors aware of the time.

Shifts available (two volunteers per shift): 10 to 1 pm ♦ 1 to 4 pm ♦ 4 to 7:30 pm

Clinic Monitor – Each band will receive a clinic with after their performance. The clinic monitor helps to keep the clinicians on schedule by keeping track of the time.

Shifts available (need three volunteers per shift): 10 to 1 pm ♦ 1 to 5 pm ♦ 5 to 9 pm

Band Monitor – Student guides will lead each band from the warm-up area to the performance area. Band monitors keep bands out of the performance area until the stage is set.

Shifts available (need one volunteer per shift): 10 to 1 pm ♦ 12 to 3 pm ♦ 1 to 4 pm ♦ 3 to 6 pm ♦ 4 to 7:30 pm ♦ 6 to 9 pm

Band Hallway Monitor – The band hallway will be one of the most trafficked areas of the day (with bands, staff and guests). The band hallway monitors provide directions to those using the area.

Shifts available (need two volunteers per shift): 10 to 1 pm ♦ 1 to 5 pm ♦ 5 to 9 pm

CD Sales – A CD of many of the day's performances is produced in the weeks following the event. The CD sales volunteer will accept order forms and payments for CD orders.

Shifts available (need one volunteer per shift): 9 to 1 pm ♦ 1 to 5 pm ♦ 5 to 9 pm

Ticket Sales – Tickets are sold near each performance venue. Ticket sales volunteers sell tickets (or take in free admission letters), hand out programs, distribute admission wristbands and monitor guest entry into performance venue.

Shifts available for Black Box Theatre (need two volunteers per shift): 10 to 1:30 pm ♦ 1:30 to 5:30 pm ♦ 5:30 to 7:30 pm

Shifts available for Carter Gym (need two volunteers per shift): 12 to 3 pm ♦ 3 to 6 pm ♦ 6 to 9 pm

CONCERT BAND FEST – VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES (CONTINUED)

Food Sales & Kitchen Help – These volunteers will do a variety of activities including selling food, baking cookies, re-stocking food products for sale, cleaning tables, etc.

Shifts available: 8 to 11 am (need two volunteers) ♦ 9 to 11 am (need six volunteers) ♦ 10:30 to 2:30 pm (need four volunteers) ♦ 1 to 5 pm (need seven volunteers) ♦ 11 to 3 pm (need two volunteers) ♦ 5 to 9 pm (need seven volunteers) ♦ Kitchen Clean up 8:30 to 10 pm (need four volunteers)

Cookie & Water Sales – Two “kiosk” areas are set up for snack and water sales. Volunteers for this job will sell items and bake cookies at their site.

Shifts available (need four volunteers per shift): 9 to 12 pm ♦ 12 to 3 pm ♦ 3 to 6 pm

Greeters – Greeters are assigned to front and rear entrances for the purpose of providing directions to assigned homerooms for arriving bands.

Shifts available (need two volunteers per shift): 9:30 to 12:30 pm ♦ 12:30 to 3:30 pm ♦ 3:30 to 5:30 pm ♦ 5:30 to 7:30 pm

Thank you in advance for your help. If you have any questions or the shift times don't quite work out, we can work with you on this. Again, if you are interested in volunteering, [contact Sheri Hess](#). You may also volunteer via the [CICBF subsite](#) of the Hersey band website. Visit the site for information about the festival, including performance schedules, information about the bands, visitor information, volunteer information and more.

CICBF WEBSITE NOW LIVE!

Linda Takei ♦ CICBF Chairman

For the first time, we are hosting a website for the Chicagoland Invitational Concert Band Festival. This site will be a great resource for the Hersey band family and for visitors who will be attending the festival.

Please take a moment to see visit the site. Click [here](#) for access or click on the “Chicagoland Fest” tab on the home page of the [Hersey band website](#).

FOOD DONATION FOR CICBF COMMITTEE

Lois Melkovitz ♦ CICBF Committee Chair

Each year we provide meals for our staff of festival judges who spend a very long day working with all of the bands (ours and the visiting bands).

We are looking for two donations of salad for 15 people that will be used at lunch and dinner. If you are willing to make this donation, please e-mail Lois via newsletter@herseyband.com.

KEEP THE TRADITION GOING!

Linda Takei ♦ CICBF Chairman



A few years back, a very creative band volunteer designed the Big House T for volunteers to show their Hersey solidarity while volunteering at the Chicagoland Band Festival. By popular demand, we are placing another order for the T-shirts just in time for this year's festival.

Pricing is as follows:

S, M, L XL	\$10
XXL	\$11.50
XXXL	\$12

The due date for orders is Wednesday, March 10. Shirts will be delivered by April 1 (estimated) but definitely in time for the festival. Click [here](#) to access an order form or visit the Hersey band website and locate the form under the volunteers tab on the CICBF web pages.

2009-2010 Band Calendar

Subject to change. Watch for updates to calendar.
Unless otherwise indicated, dates/times apply to all members. Changes are highlighted.

February		
27	Jazz I and II to Jazz in the Meadows	All day to early evening
March		
3	District 214 Honors Music Festival @ Forest View (select)	7:30 pm
6	Color Guard at Lake Park West HS	4 pm
8	HIA General Meeting	7:30 pm
9	Concert Band Festival at BGHS	7:30 pm
10	Manna pick up day	2:45 to 3:15 or 6 to 6:30 pm
	Symphonic Band Rehearsal	6:30 to 8:30 pm
17	ALL HERSEY BANDS TO PERFORM AT SYMPHONY CENTER!	3 to 9 pm
20-28	Spring Break	
21	Color Guard at Lincoln-Way East HS (tent.)	10 am
27-28	Color Guard Championships	TBD
29	Classes Resume	
31	Symphonic Band Rehearsal	6:30 to 8:30 pm
April		
7	Symphonic Band Rehearsal	6:30 to 8:30 pm
8	Symphonic Band Rehearsal	6:30 to 8:30 pm
9	Chicagoland Band Festival Set-up	PM
10	Chicagoland Concert Band Festival (will need lots of student/parent help)	All day to late evening
12	Incoming Freshman Orientation Meeting	6:30 to 8:30 pm, Band Room
14	Manna pick up day	2:45 to 3:15 or 6 to 6:30 pm
15-16	Solo & Ensemble at Hersey	PM
20-24	CHICAGO, The Musical	
28	Symphonic Band Rehearsal	6:30 to 8:30 pm
May		
7	Symphonic Band Rehearsal	6:30 to 8:30 pm
8	Symphonic Band to Superstate	All day to evening
10	HIA General Meeting	7:30 pm
12	Manna pick up day	2:45 to 3:15 or 6 to 6:30 pm
19	Spring Band Concert	7:30 pm
21	Formal Band Awards Banquet	TBA
28	Night of Percussion	TBA
31	Memorial Day Parade	TBA
June		
5	Graduation	
11	Last Day of School	

NEWSLETTER HARD COPIES

Linda Takei • Newsletter

This year, Hersey band decided to "go green" and send the newsletter via e-mail only. If you prefer, you may receive the newsletter via regular mail. Please just contact Linda Takei via newsletter@herseyband.com and request a hard copy of the newsletter. We are happy to accommodate you.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Linda Takei • Directory

If you need changes or updates to the directory, please contact Linda Takei via newsletter@herseyband.com and provide your updates. We will publish changes in the next newsletter.

Visit the Hersey Band Website at www.herseyband.com