RICHMOND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT
MOLLY J. SCHACK, DIRECTOR

January 25, 2024

Dear Instrumental Music Parents:

In the coming weeks, your child will begin the class selection process for the 2024-2025 school year! 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 sports schedules, 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 a transitional key to success. Being a member of a music ensemble ensures instant acceptance in a respected organization at the onset of the freshman year and that a group of supporting friends is established with a firm sense of "belonging" as well as a class they are very familiar with.

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

- Research shows that when music is included in a student's daily learning that 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 studies of music.
- College admissions officers give special consideration to students who are part of their high school music programs, especially those who balance music, sports, and other extra-curricular activities.
- The longer an individual studies music, the higher his or her scores tend to be on both verbal and math portions of the ACT and SAT exam.
- Band fulfills the Visual & Performing Arts credit required by the state of Michigan.

Please continue to read about some of the responsibilities of joining band in high school, which are similar to middle school with the addition of marching band. Marching band is part of the high school curriculum. Right now, band camp is slotted in for the week of August 5-10 and pre-camp will be determined by the school calendar at the end of the school year. The official calendar of events will come out in April!

Your child deserves the best as he or she enters the high school culture. I have included a brochure explaining various aspects of our program and sample schedules that can be used as a guide in the scheduling process. These schedule samples show how band can fit in your child's schedule while allowing time for other electives. www.bludevilsmusic.weebly.com also has information in the *Scheduling Tab* under the high school band section that will aid in the transition. If you have if you have any further questions concerning this vitally important decision, or do not have access to the internet, please contact me at 586-727-3225 ex. 3125.

I join you in your commitment to the best education possible for your child!

Personal regards,

Molly Schack

Molly J. Schack
Instrumental Music Director

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