

The Newton Noter

A Note from the Director's Desk...

Hello Everyone!

Spring has arrived and the 2016-2017 school year is nearing a close. First and foremost, I want to thank the students, parents, school, and community for continuing the tradition of excellence that is ingrained in the culture of the Newton Music program. The students continue to care deeply about making music and the support from the community and administration remains to be rivaled by few.

Continuing the theme of "an attitude of gratitude," thank you to all who have helped by donating your time and talents this year. It is volunteer work that makes the music program at Newton a strong and memorable experience for all and your work does not go unnoticed. However, we have recently found ourselves in quite a dilemma with volunteerism and a disheartening lack of shared responsibility. In the past two years, it has been nearly impossible to find students, parents, and families willing to work the fair cafeteria, sport concessions, and other events. Too often the burden has fallen on the few and it is simply not sustainable or fair to those who are stuck doing all of the work. It takes a tremendous amount of resources to run a music program and fundraisers like these are fundamental to our success and current operation.

We are now at a crossroads with a *decades-old* Newton Music tradition: The Cafeteria Booth at the Miami County Fair. **Due to severe lack of help and interest, the cafeteria is at risk of being eradicated from the Newton Music program for good.** Although the immediate effects of such a loss will be negligible, the long term effects could be devastating. I foresee extra trips to New York (choir), Cedar Point, Florida (band), Kings Island (junior high), ad nauseam, not continuing. Gatorade at marching band rehearsals, punch and cookies at concerts, meals for traveling groups, etc. could be a thing of the past. Further, current budgets for instrument repairs, marching band shows, music supplies, sheet music, and run-out performances could reduce over time, negatively impacting the program. This is the reality that stands before us. Is there a way we as a community can be better? Can we once again re-establish a sense of shared responsibility that now seems to be lacking in our music community? I believe if we come together, this can be achieved - but it will take everyone's willingness to recognize that we all play a vital role in the success of our music program at Newton. The bottom line is that opportunities and experiences that the current and past students at Newton have been

--- Continued on page 2 ---

Mark Your Calendars!

May

- 9 Band & Choir Spring Concert
7:00 PM
- 13 JH Band/ Choir Contest &
Kings Island Trip
- 15 Band & Choir Awards
Banquet 6:00 PM
All families grades 5 - 12 are
invited! All students will be
recognized.
- 21 Commencement (1pm report)
- 22 Booster Meeting, 7:00pm
- 29 Memorial Day Parade (9am
report)

June

- 2 Strawberry Festival Set-Up
- 3 - 4 Strawberry Festival

July

- 17 - 18 Guard, Perc, Rookie Camp
- 19 - 21 Pre Camp
- 24 - 28 Band Camp
- 31 Summer Rehearsals

August

- 1 - 3 Summer Rehearsals
- 7 - 10 Summer Rehearsals
- 11 - 17 Miami County Fair
- 17 Marching Band Fair
Performance (evening)
- 18, 21 Summer Rehearsals

Memorial Day Parade

Rehearsals

MANDATORY rehearsals for current HS Marching Band and incoming freshmen/ rookies. All Rehearsals after school from 3:00pm to 4:00pm.

Tuesday, May 16th
Thursday, May 18th
Tuesday, May 23th
Thursday, May 25th

FROM THE DIRECTOR (CON'T)

afforded may not continue. With your help (yes you! You reading this!), we can secure the future of our beloved music program. ***Together, we achieve more.***

With that being said, I would like to STRONGLY encourage all parents and family members, grades 5-12, to become involved with the boosters and become active participants in the musical lives of your children. For a small amount of your time, your children will reap the countless benefits and rewards. Our last two booster meetings of the year will be on Monday, April 24 and Monday, May 22, at 7:30pm in the school cafeteria. Please mark the dates on your calendar - we would love to see you! Thanks so much and I look forward to seeing you at all of the upcoming events within the music department.

Sincerely,

Matt Gaal, Director of Bands and Choirs

OUR MIAMI COUNTY FAIR BOOTH MAY BE OVER

The future of the Newton Music Boosters' Cafeteria at the Miami County Fair is in Jeopardy. The Boosters are currently faced with the decision of how to move forward with our operation of the cafeteria. There are three choices being considered. We can 1) continue this summer as usual, 2) operate the cafeteria with a smaller menu, or 3) make the decision to end our operation of the cafeteria and make it available for another group to occupy. We currently feel that with the current situation of a severe lack of shared responsibility, running the cafeteria with a full menu is not optimal.

This issue arises because of recent difficulty in securing sufficient volunteers for the cafeteria (and multiple events throughout the school year). Many volunteers, both students and adults, are needed for each day of the fair in order to efficiently operate the cafeteria even with a reduced menu. **Adult participation is of the utmost importance** as several jobs should not be done by students due to safety concerns.

In addition to volunteers to work the fair, we are also in need of a team (usually two people) to manage the operation of the cafeteria. Work typically begins in June and runs through August. Duties for this position include but are not limited to:

- working with suppliers to order and ensure scheduled delivery
- cleaning and maintenance to prepare for startup and shutdown
- ensuring that the cafeteria is ready to open and supplies are put away and organized
- securing proper paperwork for all facets of the fair booth operation
- preparing shift schedules and working with the volunteer coordinator to fill positions

Profits earned from the operation of the cafeteria and other Booster sponsored fundraisers are used to pay for many things that music students enjoy throughout the year including awards, large trip transportation (i.e. Florida, NYC) guest conductors/ clinicians, special treats, and a myriad of other booster funded items.

At the spring concert on May 9, Newton music families and friends will have the opportunity to commit to volunteering at the 2017 Fair Cafeteria this August. We will use the level of commitment to decide which direction to go with the future of the Cafeteria. LACK OF COMMITMENT ON MAY 9 WILL RESULT IN THE NEWTON MUSIC BOOSTERS NO LONGER OPERATING THE FAIR CAFETERIA.

We thank you for your careful attention to this matter and for your continued support of the Newton Music Boosters and the Newton Music Program.

Sincerely,

The Newton Music Booster Board

WHO DOES WHAT FOR THE CONCERT AND AWARDS BANQUET?

All of our parents have duties to make the spring concert and our awards banquet a success. Below you will find that list of duties! We all play a major role in the musical lives of our students and children. In recognizing that shared responsibility, the following is being asked of you:

Spring Concert TUESDAY MAY 9, 7:00PM

All Students – 1 dozen cookies per student (2 students = 24 cookies)

Clean up after the concert - EVERYBODY HELPS!

6th grade parents – Serve punch and cookies

Junior parents – Decorate tables for the senior parents

Volunteer(s) – Make punch and get ice, cups, and napkins (you will be reimbursed). CONTACT ANNETT BAYER IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP!

Music Awards Banquet MONDAY MAY 15, 6:00 PM (Elem. Gym)

Senior Parents – Decorate the stage

Sophomore Parents – Clean up after banquet

Junior High Parents (7 & 8) – Set up and decorate tables

Everyone please bring the following items

- PLACE SETTINGS FOR YOUR FAMILY
- ONE HOT DISH SERVING 4-6 PEOPLE, TO SHARE
- ONE COLD DISH SERVING 4-6 PEOPLE, TO SHARE
- BEVERAGES FOR YOUR FAMILY
- A DESSERT TO SHARE, IF YOU CHOOSE

The Awards Banquet is a time to honor the years accomplishments and our seniors. EVERYONE IN THE BAND AND CHOIR PROGRAM IS HIGHLY ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND! Please be on time and place your family's food items on the buffet tables when arriving.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL!

The boosters are in the planning stages of another successful year at the Troy Strawberry Festival. **We need your help to make this year a success!** The boosters are in need of people to work at our booth selling berries. You will be contacted in the near future to set up a time you can work the booth and your help is greatly appreciated. We also need 3 volunteers who own pick-up trucks and 10 additional volunteers to help transport strawberries Friday afternoon before the festival (June 2). Please contact Amy Laughman or Tawnja Arnett if you are able to help. This fundraiser is essential for the continued ability to take trips, go to contests, buy and repair new instruments, and offer your children the experiences they enjoy each year. Thank you in advance for recognizing your role in the shared responsibility we all have to this program by volunteering your time.



Next Booster Meeting - April 24, 7:30pm in the Cafeteria

WE NEED YOU!!!!

Remember... Everyone is a booster (even you 5th grade parents!) Come to our meetings and lend a hand any way that you can. While it is cliché to say, it truly does take a village to run a successful band and choir program. Please consider volunteering your time and talents to continue the strong tradition of excellence of which we here at Newton are *extremely* proud. **Together, we achieve more.**

FAIR MANAGER AND MULTIPLE BOOSTER BOARD POSITIONS NEED FILLED

The boosters **NEED** a new manager to run the concession stand at the Miami County Fair. Please contact Christy Drieling for more information and discover how you can serve the music department in an incredibly noble fashion. **THE FAIR IS OUR BIGGEST FUNDRAISER** and we need YOU to ensure the future of the students! There will also be many vacant seats for next year's booster board. Nominations will take place at the April Booster Meeting and Elections will be held at the May meeting. Please consider volunteering your time for the betterment of the Newton Music Program. We all have a shared responsibility to this program. How are you being called to serve the students of the music program?

Booster Officers

President

Kim Landwehr

Vice President

Jerry Anthony

Treasurer

Christina Drieling

Secretary

Annette Bayer

Volunteer Coordinator

Amy Laughman and
Tawnja Arnett

Officer nominations
for 2017/18 will
take place at the
next meeting.