



The Royal Review



May/June 2005

Endings and Beginnings

A Heartfelt Good-Bye

Dear "Little Children" and Band Parents,

My tenure with the CBPA began seven short years ago on a hot day in August. My daughter Christin was entering Courtland High School as a Freshman (not happy because she was supposed to attend Chancellor High but Spotsylvania County had just changed the attendance lines with the opening of Massaponax High School). Her trepidations were certainly squashed about 5 minutes after she entered the band room. Courtland's Band was so very welcoming to her and my whole family. I became the Souvenirs Chairperson that year and I literally have not stopped since. I was 1st V.P. for the next two years and then when Christin was a Senior and Candace was entering Courtland as a Freshman I was elected to the Presidency. These last seven years have certainly been a whirlwind! From the first moment I saw Christin in uniform, marching down to the stadium field, to all of the amazing competitions, seven different and all fantastic marching band shows, Spring Trips, Concerts, Concerts, and more Concerts. I've watched both of my daughters find their "comfort zone" within the band room and both blossomed and grew because they were in a place that they felt comfortable and liked. As for me, well, I've made many wonderful friends throughout the years and have actually found out a lot about myself. I've grown and been forced to make hard decisions some of which were not comfortable at times. I had to dig pretty deep to find that strong woman inside myself that I didn't even know existed. In the end, I am a much more capable and fulfilled individual, and I feel so very blessed to have been able to spend so much time with so many awesome people.

I wish I knew how many band kids walked in and out of my life in the last seven years. One of my "mantras" at the beginning of Parents meetings has been, "Let's remember why we are here doing what we are doing. We are not doing this for ourselves; instead we are here to help the kids make the best of their band experience". I have been so very touched by so many kids and felt privileged to have been able to get to know them and spend time with them. I've seen so many shy, quiet children enter the band as Freshman, only to watch them Graduate as out-going, mature, awesomely put together individuals!

I've had the honor to work with three different band directors.

The first three years, it was Mr. Paul Hicks, he struggled as our band director, but tried his best to make the band better.

The next three years it was Mr. Christopher Hoovler. Wow, did he ever turn this program around. He came into a situation where there was a beleaguered band awaiting him. It was my first year as President, and he taught me so very much about how a band program should be run. He literally turned this band around and the kids were finally able to know what it was like to be in a band that worked as a cohesive unit. We became an Honor Band during Mr. Hoovler's tenure, a status that had not been achieved by Courtland's Band in several years. And this my last year as a member of the CBPA, I was honored to have been able to work with Ms. Kathleen Schoelwer, a young woman fresh out of college with a true love of teaching and a desire to bring all of her wealth of knowledge to our children. She has implemented so many new and wonderful things to this band program. She's taught the kids more about music and instilled a love for this Program in them that I didn't think was possible. Hold on for the ride folks, she is going to take this band places that it has never seen before!

So, as I end my tenure here at CHS I send my heartfelt thanks out to so many people. My heart is full; so very full! I thank every single child who filled out one of those note cards on Spring Trip and wrote on one of my Memory Quilt squares, I will take those words with me and hold them so close into the next chapter of my life. Thank you to each and every individual who had anything to do with making my Memory Quilt, it is the most beautiful thing I have ever seen in my entire life; I will treasure it always!! Thank you also for my "Roast", you ladies sure know me very well and managed to pick out all of my idiosyncrasies and again made me laugh one second and then cry through that laughter because I'm going to miss you so very much! Thank you to Ms. Schoelwer for compiling that DVD with oh so many pictures put to music, I will cherish it always! Thank you to each and every band parent who has ever helped out with this Program and who have touched my heart beyond comprehension. Thank you to every "little band child" that has crossed my path in the last seven years. Thank you for letting me love you and nurture you and spend time with you; my life has been forever changed because I've had the honor of knowing you! I know I will look back on the last seven years as being some of the very best years of my life!

As I watch Candace go off to start her own career at JMU as a

Music Major and eventually a band director, I reluctantly say good-bye. My best wishes go with each and every one of you who will enjoy the years to come with the Courtland Band. Enjoy every single second that you are involved with this awesome program and know that you are special! I love you all!

Very Sincerely Yours,
Arlynn Funderburk

Seniors

Laura Bland will be attending Germanna Community College. She plans to become a Kindergarten teacher.

Meghan Burnett will be attending Marymount University and majoring in Elementary Education.

Taylor Burrow will be attending the University of Virginia and majoring in Science and then continuing on to Medical School, her goal is to save lives. She'll also be participating with the Drumline in the Cavalier Marching Band.

Beth Frank will be attending University of Mary Washington and majoring in Classical Studies. She will continue to participate with Studio 17's Irish and Scottish Highland dancers.

Candace Funderburk will be attending James Madison University and majoring in Music Education. She'll also be participating with the Marching Royal Dukes.

Chantel Hamilton:

Elayne Harris will be attending James Madison University and majoring in Music Education. She will also be participating with the Marching Royal Dukes.

Shana Howell will be attending the University of Virginia and majoring in Biology.

Zac Kelly will be attending Germanna Community College and will be pursuing a transfer degree in General Studies.

Jesse Lacy will be attending Virginia Tech and majoring in Political Science. He has also decided to become a member of the Corps of Cadets and will be joining their marching band the Highty Tights.

David Mersiovsky will be attending James Madison University and majoring in Music Education. He'll also be participating with the Marching Royal Dukes.

Sam Oddi will be attending the University of Virginia and majoring in Media Studies, with a goal of becoming a film critic.

Sarah Sack will be attending Radford University and majoring in Speech Pathology.

Kenny Smith will be attending Germanna Community College for some years and he will play guitar like always

Thank you

I want to thank everyone from the bottom of my heart for the flowers, cards, phone calls, prayers, visits, gifts, and help getting the girls to school the morning of my surgery and to the hospital that afternoon to see me the day of my surgery. Each and every one of you has touched my heart in some many ways and I am so thankful to be a part of an organization that is so caring. With knowing I had so many people I could count on it made my recovery go so smoothly and quickly. I enjoyed the laughs even though my stomach was tender but the things I enjoyed the most was reading the handmade cards and words of encouragement from the kids. You will never know how much each and everyone of you touched my heart during my recovery time. Many thanks again...)

Karen Eudailey

Scholarships

Congratulations to Elayne Harris, Candace Funderburk, Taylor Burrow, Meghan Burnett, David Mersiovsky and Beth Frank as the recipients of the RBMB scholarships. We will miss all our seniors and wish them the best of luck on their new journey in life.

Dues

The dues are now proposed to be \$325.00 based on 55 marchers signing up and one mandatory fundraiser. Remember mini band camp is June 7-9th, 3:30-5:30 with June 9th as the sign up day. Wednesday we will be treating the marchers to hot dogs, chips and a drink. Looking forward to seeing our returning marchers as well as our new marchers.

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