

May 25, 2023

## Welcome to the Slippery Rock High School Marching Band

***Congratulations on your decision to participate in this outstanding organization. If you are receiving this email, you, or your student, are on the roster of the 2023 Marching Rockets. If this is a mistake, please notify Mr. Fine immediately. If you change your mind about marching, please notify Mr. Fine immediately. You can do no worse damage to the success of this band than commit to being a part of the marching band and not follow through. If you have questions about being a member, please ask Mr. Fine immediately. If you are on the list as of July 1, a drill spot is assigned to you and cannot be removed.***

The purpose of this letter is to get vital planning information to our members. The band will number around 60 this year which will make it the smallest it has been in 20 years but continues to make it one of the largest organizations in the high school. It will be small but mighty. This group performs in front of over 10,000 spectators per year.

### Communication

You can expect numerous contacts throughout the summer: this letter, a required band booster meeting during band camp, a band handbook to be printed off the band website, and numerous emails from myself and the band boosters. The band handbook has the answers to most of the questions that arise. Bring the signed confirmation form at the end of the band handbook on the first day of band camp. Please visit our website at <http://srhsrocketband.weebly.com/> for the most up-to-date information.



There is also a Facebook group run by the band boosters that has endless information and you can get answers to questions direct from other parents. Use this QR code to gain access. It is a private group so you will have to request access. There is also a public fundraiser site that you can share material with your families and friends

### Charms – THIS IS VITAL!

After making the change last year to Cut Time, we found that Charms best satisfies our needs. Charms is a cloud-based group management tool that helps directors stay in touch with the students and parents in their fine arts program. We continue integrating technology in the classroom to an all-around better band program for you and your family. Through a variety of modules, directors can communicate and manage each student's ensembles, financial records, events, and much more!

Each Parent and Student will have a Charms profile created for them. Keep an eye out for an email that will give you directions on how to register. If you are a veteran parent that had a previous account with Charms, it still exists but be sure to update it. If you do not see this email by June 7, please contact me so I can verify your email address.

### Physicals

The Slippery Rock Area School Board requires all marching band members to follow PIAA policies set forth for athletes; to receive a physical. This is due to the athletic nature of our activity. You may have the physical done by your private doctor or a walk-in clinic. You will need to have one completed before being allowed to participate beyond the first day of band camp. Physical forms are available to be printed out at our band website and are included in this

mailing. **Outside physicals must be dated after June 1 and all forms must be turned in by July 24.**

Band Camp is where the student learns 90% of the skills necessary for a successful season. If you have not completed your physical on time, I cannot allow you to participate until it is complete. If you have problems with this or other questions, contact me at [les\\_fine@slipperyrock.k12.pa.us](mailto:les_fine@slipperyrock.k12.pa.us). Please note that the school also requires insurance for each participant. If you do not have insurance, the school can provide accident insurance at a reasonable cost.

### **Schedule**

The marching band schedule may be found at <https://srhsrocketband.weebly.com/calendar.html> Please clear these dates, **today**. The success of every marching band depends on every member being at every rehearsal and every performance. NO ONE SITS THE BENCH. Of course, there are those, "once in a lifetime events," that arise and you need to be excused. The earlier you notify Mr. Fine the nicer he is about excusing you. Email is always best. The most up-to-date calendar will always be found on the website and will be continuously updated.

### **Summer Practice Policy**

The purpose of the summer practices is to get materials in the student's hands and give them a head start into band camp. We are lenient about students needing to miss the earlier summer practices but the full band camp is vital. Whenever you are going to miss any practice, it is your responsibility to contact your instructor, section leader, and Mr. Fine to let them know. When you view the calendar, you will see pre-camps on July 11 & 12, as well as July 25 & 26 in the evening and a full camp in August, this is new this year.

Our Pre Camp Goal is to give the students a solid beginning and to learn the pregame drill. Our full camp goal is to learn the entire half-time show. The dates are July 31-August 3, and August 7-10. It runs from 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM, please notice the new times, at Slippery Rock High School. If students miss any band camp, they may not be allowed to participate in the Kennywood Parade which takes place on Wednesday, August 16, and may be limited in the portions of the show they are included. Students may not leave school property during camp. They may bring a bag lunch or lunch is sold at the camp.

The general schedule is listed:

8:00 AM	Stretches & Calisthenics
8:30 AM	Basic Marching Block
9:00 AM	On-Field Drill (Breaks built-in)
11:15 AM	Announcements and Lunch
12:00 N	Sectional Rehearsals
1:00 PM	Ensemble Rehearsal
2:00 PM	Review On Field
3:30 PM	Dismissal

*Daily adjustments will be made to accommodate weather and progress*

### **Expenses**

The Rock 'N-Ettes will be given their list of expenses and will need to follow the payment schedule listed. Instrumentalists are required to purchase marching shoes specially made to accentuate the marching style and uniformity. The cost will be approx. \$32 and the students will be sized at band camp. If this causes financial difficulty we do have shoes that have been donated by graduating seniors. Many students will also be expected to purchase black gloves for the uniform which costs \$2-3 per pair. We suggest purchasing a couple of extra pairs in case they get lost. The band boosters supply the first uniform t-shirt. Replacements or additional t-shirts may

be purchased for \$10. We ask students to purchase black shorts underneath the uniform. The shorts must be the slippery kind to allow the uniform to move easily. All wind players are expected to purchase a flip folder and an appropriate lyre for their instrument. These items may be found at your local music store. Band trips are optional. Fundraisers for this purpose occur monthly.

### **Band Boosters**

We encourage all parents to be active members of the Slippery Rock Band Booster Association. This group is integral to the funding and organization of our band. Parents are very busy in the activities of life, but if everyone volunteered to help only once, this would be the most successful organization in our school. There will be a mandatory meeting during band camp to share information and discuss fundraising, the need for chaperones, trips, and other additional needs. Also due on this date is a \$50 bond, a check that will be returned to the student account upon the completion of two volunteer activities. Further details will be shared at the meeting.

The best way to contact me during the summer is by email, at [les\\_fine@slipperyrock.k12.pa.us](mailto:les_fine@slipperyrock.k12.pa.us). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me and I will contact you as soon as I can.

Sincerely,

### **The Slippery Rock Marching Band Staff**

Mr. Les Fine, Band Director

Ms. Stella Bargeloh, Asst. Band Director

Ms. Samantha Bowman, Percussion Instructor

Dr. Diane Bowser, Percussion Instructor

Mr. Dennis Malinski, Percussion Instructor

Ms. Abby Comes, Percussion Instructor

Mrs. Terri Fine, Rock 'N-Ette Director

Ms. Tara Shamburg, Rock 'N-Ette Choreographer

Ms. Andi Atwood, Rock 'N-Ette Instructor