



Maury High School Orchestras
Back-to-School Newsletter
August-September 2009
"The Year of the Renaissance"

A Note from the Director

Welcome to another new and exciting year for the Maury Orchestras. As you know, the Orchestras has a fine reputation throughout Norfolk as one of the school system premier high school ensembles. This year we plan to continue this tradition and raise the bar to a higher level.

For those that are new to the Orchestra, let me be the first to welcome you to our world-class organization. For those returning, welcome back!

In this monthly newsletter, you will read about upcoming events and important information that involves us all!

As always, if you have any comments or questions, please feel free to contact me via email @ rfeatherer@nps.k12.va.us
Thanks again and I hope to meet everyone soon!

Sincerely,

Ryan E. Featherer,
Director



Orchestra Handbooks

The Maury Orchestra handbook will be distributed to each member of the Orchestra during his or her first class. Inside this book is vital information concerning our organization; from policies to dates, it covers it all.



Please be sure to read this handbook and return the form back to me at the next class meeting.

Regional Orchestra Auditions

The annual Southeastern Regional Orchestra Auditions are scheduled for Saturday, September 26th at Great Bridge High School in Chesapeake. Although these auditions are not required, I highly recommend members of the Orchestra to try out to get a spot as one of the region's best players! Those who qualify for the Symphony Orchestra will be eligible to

audition for the All-Virginia Orchestra in late February.

More information about this audition will be given during classes!

Orchestra Shirts Design Contest



The Maury Orchestra T-Shirt Design Contest has begun.

The student who designs the BEST shirt will be awarded with a \$150 credit towards their trip to Alaska or a \$100 gift card to MacArthur Mall. Entries are due no later than September 24th.

Maury Orchestra Website

The Maury Orchestra website can be found at www.mauryorchestra.org

All information concerning the Orchestra can be found on this website. Be sure to check out the calendar and you can also download any information from the handbook to newsletters.



Spring Trip 2010

Plans are in the works for the Orchestra to participate in the annual Spring Trip/Competition for the 13th straight school year. In the past we have traveled to New York, Orlando, the Caribbean, Mexico, Los Angeles and Hawaii.

The plan for 2010 is to cruise aboard Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines in June along the coast of Alaska after a brief stay in Anchorage. To off set the cost



of the trip we have several opportunities for students to fundraise and I highly recommend that students participate in these fundraisers. Our Vice-President in charge of fundraising will present a message on how your child could go free at our parent meeting on September 24th, don't miss it! The first catalogue fundraiser will begin towards the end of September and all profits will go towards each students individual trip account.

The first deposit for the 2010 Orchestra Trip/Competition will be in the amount of \$150.00 due by September 24th. This will secure a spot on the cruise in June of 2010.

**Maury Orchestra Parent
Association Executive Board**

Part of what makes this Orchestra so great are the parents. Last year we voted in a new set of officers and they hit the ground running. These parents have been working since June to make sure every event and concert will be perfect. Please welcome the following officers for the 2009-2010 school year. Also, you will find their e-mail addresses should you need to contact them for any reason.

- President - Jay Turpin
(Turjlt@aol.com)
- 1st Vice-President - Rebecca Dearborn (badearborn@yahoo.com)
- 2nd Vice-President - Margaret Fernan
(margaretfernan@cox.net)
- Treasurer - Cathy Turpin
(Readermom60@aol.com)
- Secretary - Alice Grimes
(jgrimesiv@cox.net)
- Chairperson of the Friends of the Maury Orchestra Scholarship - Karen Squires
(kejs@cox.net)
- Committee Member of the FOMO Scholarship - Debbie Freeman (debbyfreeman@cox.net)
- At-Large Member of the MOPA Executive Board - Carol Reyes (remarkcl@yahoo.com)

Orchestra Dresses

As you know, we have decided to move to uniforms for the ladies beginning this year. Two companies will supply our Orchestras. For the Chamber Orchestra, it will be Stage Accents and for the Concert Orchestra, we have chosen Southeastern Apparel.

We have narrowed the choices down to two dresses per ensemble and the ladies will



vote on their favorite during the first week of class. Once the choice has been made, we will arrange for some parents to come in to measure our ladies and then we will proceed to order the dresses. Yes, parents will have to pay for the dresses as you normally would. At the end of your tenure in the Orchestra, we will buy them back from you, but not at full value.

The Friends of the Maury Orchestra has agreed to help those that need financial aid, so please e-mail Mrs. Squires at kejs@cox.net for more information. All dresses MUST be paid for by October 15, 2009.

Ad Campaign

If you've been to a Maury Orchestra concert you are familiar with the program handed out at



the door. If you are new to the Orchestra, you will see that the concert programs are chock full of ads for local

businesses. Those ads are the work of students who go to their families, neighbors and friends to solicit ads for Maury Orchestra. Students earn money for ads, which is one of many ways to go to Alaska for a lot less as well as help out with many expenses of the Orchestra. It's easy and we will go over all the details at the parent meeting on Sept. 24th. Check out the Maury Orchestra website for a current list of ad donors and start thinking of your own!

The prices per ad are as follows are each student makes 75% profit.

1/3 page ad: \$30.00 per ad or \$125.00 for the five full concerts.

Half Page ad: \$85.00 per ad or \$410.00 for the five full concerts.

Full Page ad: \$130.00 per ad or \$600.00 for the five full concerts

Friends of the Maury Orchestra

The Friends of the Maury Orchestra was founded in 2006. A 501©3 nonprofit organization, its mission is to involve members of the larger Maury community in the life of Maury orchestras. Members support the orchestras' activities through annual contributions at different levels:

Conductor's Circle - \$100

Orchestra Circle - \$50

Friend - \$35

We welcome both individuals and businesses to join us.



Our logo was chosen from a design competition won by Class of '08 cellist Andrew Gaubatz, and adorns bumper stickers and t-shirts given to FOMO members. Initially, FOMO helped to fund orchestra supplies and activities, but has evolved to become a scholarship program for orchestra students. In 2008 the Friends awarded their first scholarships to two graduating seniors. Criteria for the scholarships include current membership in the Maury orchestra, a minimum GPA of 3.0 and a commitment to continuing their music education. The Friends want to recognize and reward the hard work of orchestra students.

Not only their beautiful music, but their self discipline developed through constant practice makes a positive impact on Maury High School and the larger community.

Fundraiser Opportunities

The MOPA Board has worked very hard to plan numerous fund raising activities throughout the 2009-2010 school year. Any family who is willing to put in the effort can use these opportunities to greatly reduce their out-of-pocket Alaska (or future) trip expenses.

These fund raisers will not only help defray the cost of the trip but also assist in the purchase of day to day items to ensure the high level instruction that we have come to enjoy from Mr. Featherer.

Direct Student Trip Funding -
Reduces over all cost of trip for an individual student

- ♦ Ad Campaign - 75% goes to the student's account (on going)
- ♦ Catalogue Sale (40% of sales) late September
- ♦ University Pizza coupon card (\$8.00 per card) Oct
- ♦ Wreath Sale (40% of sales) November
- ♦ Cheesecake Sale (40% of sales) January

General Trip & General Funding -
Reduces over all cost of trip for all students and assists the Orchestra

- ♦ Yard Sale & Car Wash (10/17)
- ♦ University Pizza (11/16)
- ♦ Santa Paws (12/5)
- ♦ Tropical Smoothie Café (12/15)
- ♦ Moe's Southwest Grill (2/23)
- ♦ Car Wash (05/08)

General Funding - Assists in the purchase of sheet music, strings and other expenses

- ♦ Booster Auction Baskets
Concert Orchestra
Chamber Orchestra
Last year the two baskets raised over \$1,000!

Any parent or child who is interested in participating in any of the fund raising events can contact either Mr. Featherer or Mrs. Dearborn.



Upcoming Dates To Remember

Thursday, September 24, 2009: General Parent Meeting - 7 PM
Maury Orchestra Room

First Deposit for Alaska Due...min, \$150.00 to secure a spot.
Only 17 spots remain

Saturday, September 26, 2009: Regional Orchestra Auditions
Kellam HS, Virginia Beach

End of September: Catalogue Fundraiser &
University Pizza Discount Card

Saturday, October 17, 2009: Annual Maury Orchestra
Yard/Rummage Sale
7:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Location: TBA

