

THE BANDS OF

Stone County Schools

A Program Overview for the 2004 Midwest Clinic

Program Overview

Stone High School is located in the small rural town of Wiggins, Mississippi. The school, which opened in the fall of 1962, houses an enrollment of 668 and is the only high school in the county. The high school band has 142 members which form the Pride of Stone High Marching Band in the fall and staff two concert bands in the winter and spring.

The band staff includes Director of Bands, Mohamad Schuman; Associate Director of Bands, Susan Schuman; Assistant Director of Bands, Michael Luley; and Percussion Instructor, Tyrone Harris. The staff supervises all aspects of the high school band program and teaches the feeder band classes at Stone Middle School (the only middle school in the county).

All band classes at Stone Middle School and Stone High School meet each school day – 50 minute classes at the middle school; 90 minute classes at the high school.

An active band parent organization and a highly supportive school and central office administration ensure that the needs of the band program are met.

The Stone High School Symphonic Band performed at the 2001 Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic. The Pride of Stone High Marching Band performed in the 2002 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. The bands at Stone High and Stone Middle School have consistently earned Superior ratings at district and state concert festivals. The marching band has won numerous first place titles and this year won the first annual Mississippi State Marching Band Championship.

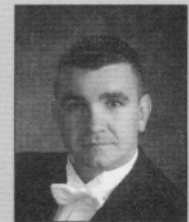
Curriculum Overview

The success of the Stone County Bands is a result of placing an acute emphasis on fundamentals. Basic skills and concepts are constantly reinforced through playing and written exercises and evaluation. Students also participate in pull-out technical master classes. A wide range of literature is explored throughout the school year and forms the cornerstone of the band curriculum. The belief that all students are essential to the success of the program is the foundation of the Stone Band philosophy.

After School

After school rehearsals are held with the marching band on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the fall from 3:15 until 5:00 PM. During the winter and spring students participate in weekly sectionals and private lessons.

Mohamad Schuman has served as the Director of Bands for Stone County Schools since 1993. During this time his bands have earned a reputation for being among the finest in the nation. In 2001 the Stone High School Symphonic Band performed at the 55th Annual Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic. In 2002 The Pride of Stone High Marching Band performed at the 76th Annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Mr. Schuman holds the Bachelor of Music Education degree and the Master of Music Education degree from the University of Southern Mississippi where he studied with Dr. Thomas V. Fraschillo. He was recently honored as one of this year's NBA International Conducting Symposium Winners and traveled to Rome where he conducted the Italian Army Band. Mr. Schuman is a member of Phi Beta Mu, the American School Band Director's Association, the National Band Association, and the Mississippi Bandmaster's Association.





Recruiting

Recruiting concerts are held with fifth grade students at Stone and Perkinson Elementary schools late in the spring of each year. The concerts are performed and each instrument is demonstrated by the 6th Grade Beginner Band from Stone Middle School.

The UMI Music Profile™ is administered to all fifth graders the following day (this is essential for maximum student response). Students who exhibit a strong interest in band and potential for success are then given an invitation letter to join the band. Follow-up calls are also made to ensure that letters were seen and understood by parents.

One week later, students are assisted with registration by their fifth grade teacher and members of the Stone Band Staff.

Final instrument selection is made at the beginning of the sixth grade school year and follows an extensive three week testing period in which all students are evaluated on all band instruments.

Parent Orientation Night is held at the conclusion of the instrument testing period so that parents may make arrangements with a local music vendor for purchasing their child's instrument. Parents are also provided with an overview of the Stone Middle School and High School Band Programs.

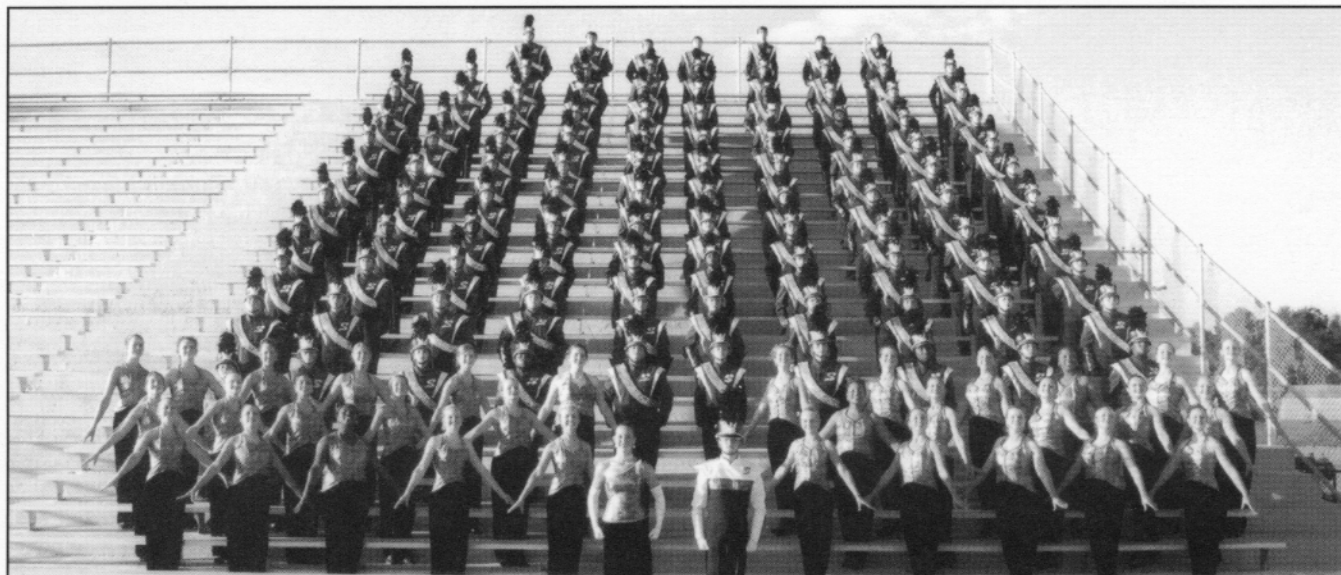
Student Leadership

Student leadership is an essential element of the Stone High School Band Program. Potential section leaders are pre-screened on the basis of character, work ethic, leadership potential, enthusiasm, musical ability, and seniority. Potential section leaders must also:

- 1) Audition for the District Honor Band, or the Mississippi Lions All-State Band.
- 2) Pass a written test which evaluates his/her ability to read drill charts/coordinate sheets and place students at designated coordinate points.
- 3) Pass a marching fundamentals test.
- 4) Participate in an interview held with an external evaluation panel.

Drum Majors are selected using the same criteria and must also pass a rigorous conducting audition.

Newly chosen student leaders attend a two day Leadership Workshop hosted by the Stone Band Staff and two retired teachers of the Stone High School Science Department (Mrs. Mike Cain and Mrs. Mary Webb). During the workshop, students participate in self evaluation activities, leadership scenarios, and team building games. All student leaders are reminded that, "The position of section leader is not just a title - so don't treat it that way. Titles are accompanied by increased responsibility."



Step-Up Program

All students in the Stone Band Program are encouraged to purchase step-up instruments sometime during the eighth or ninth grade. Seventh grade students and their families, however, often choose to participate in the step-up program.

Parents are forewarned of the eventual need to purchase step-ups at the first sixth grade parent's meeting (when beginning instruments are purchased). This prevents the obvious shock experienced by many band parents who are not told until several years later, "By the way, now that you've paid for the first horn, it's time to buy another."

Parents who wish to purchase step-ups are allowed to schedule a time to meet with a music retail representative at the Stone High School Band Hall. Parents are allowed to apply the beginner instrument trade-in toward the cost of the step-up model. Students are allowed to test specific instruments prior to purchase (often with assistance from the Stone Band Staff). This ensures consistency of instrument quality throughout the entire band program.

Note: All beginner clarinets are delivered with a Vandoren B-45 mouthpiece and Rovner ligature. All beginner saxophones are delivered with a Rascher mouthpiece and Rovner ligature.

STONE STEP-UPS

Flutes.....	Gemeinhardt - KGM
Oboes (*).....	Selmer 122F
Bassoons (*).....	Fox 222
Clarinets.....	Leblanc Sonata, Concerto, and Opus
Bass Clarinets (*).....	Vito 7166
Alto Saxophones.....	Yamaha YAS-62
Tenor Saxophones (*).....	Vito 7133T
Baritone Saxophones (*).....	Vito VSP 901
Trumpets.....	Bach Strad. 180537
French Horns (*).....	Holton 179
Trombones.....	Bach Strad. 42
Euphoniums (*).....	Besson 967
Tubas (*).....	Yamaha YBB321
<i>(*) provided by school district free of charge.</i>	



*The Stone High School Band Staff.
(L-R) Mohamad Schuman, Susan Schuman,
Michael Luley, and Tyrone Harris.*

District and Community Support

The success of the Stone County Band Program is a direct result of the enthusiastic support offered by the school district and the community. The Stone County School Board, Superintendent, and other Administrative Officials provide:

- 1) the requisite number of instructional staff to ensure that all students have a quality band experience.
- 2) budget monies to operate, maintain, and expand a quality program.
- 3) a steadfast commitment to the importance of the band program in the overall scheduling process.
- 4) facilities which allow maximum flexibility for rehearsals and pull-out sectionals (the high school has two large rehearsal rooms – the middle school has one large rehearsal room but also enjoys free access to the choral room, cafeteria, and school board room).

The parent organization is also a vital part of the Stone Band Program. The Boosters give countless hours both individually and collectively serving as drivers, chaperones, equipment movers, sewers, builders, fund-raisers, and friends. The encouragement offered to the band staff seems almost endless and is greatly appreciated (staff members have come home after a long day at school to find that band parents have delivered a hot, home cooked meal to their front door).

Local businesses and individuals also make significant contributions (in funds and assistance) to the Stone Bands. The **Bank of Wiggins** sponsors the annual Band Awards Banquet including rental of the banquet facility, catering of the food, and purchase of a yearly gift for each band student.

The Sawmill, a local restaurant, hosts fund-raising dinners, and provides the food for the annual "Meet the Band Barbecue Dinner and Marching Preview."

The Stone County Economic Development

Partnership, sponsors a large highway billboard located on US Highway 49 (near the school) which says, "Welcome to Wiggins, Home of the Award Winning Stone High Band."

Most notable has been the total support of local government officials who proclaimed November 24-30, 2002, "Stone High Pride Recognition Week" by joint proclamation of the town council to celebrate the band's participation in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. (When the band departed for New York – at 4:00 AM – residents of Stone County lined the streets of Wiggins holding banners and candles wishing the students well on their trip and performance.)

It is inconceivable to think that the success enjoyed by the students and staff of the Stone County Bands would have been possible without such boundless and heartfelt support.



The Midwest Clinic 2004

"Dealing with the Challenges of a Small School Band Program"

Rodney Bennett, Mohamad Schuman, Richard Sherrick

Dec. 16, 1:30 - 2:30 Gold Room, Congress Plaza Hotel, -Dec. 17, 12:30 - 1:30, Willford Room, Hilton

PARKWAY LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM

Parkway schools are located in a rural area of northwest Ohio straight west of Lima, at the intersections of State Routes 33, 118, and 117. In 1961 the school systems of Willshire and Rockford consolidated to form the Parkway Local schools, in 1992 the neighboring district of Mendon-Union was absorbed into the district. The middle school, which is located in Willshire, a town that sits on the Indiana border, houses grades six through eight consisting of 274 students. The high school and elementary building is located nine miles east in Rockford, with 318 high school students and 261 kindergarten through second grade students. The intermediate school is located another nine miles east in Mendon, and houses grades three through five for a total of 243 students.

There are no major industries located in the school district, with agriculture being the main source of family income. Currently a new K - 12 facility is being constructed on a central site just south of the current high school in Rockford. Seventy percent of this new school is being funded by the Ohio School Facilities Commission. Residents of the Parkway district voted additional millage to fund a larger spectator gym, expanded storage, additional square footage for the Vocational Agriculture area, and a dedicated 600 seat auditorium.

Mr. Sherrick's teaching responsibilities:

Instrumental 5 - 12
High School Choir and Show Choir
9 period day
Begin at M.S. (*Willshire*)
-1st period - Homeroom and 8th Grade band (M-W-F) (30 members)
-2nd period - 7th Grade Band (M-W-F) (35 members)
-3rd period - 6th grade band (Brass & Perc. B & C day, WW -A & C day)(26)
-4th Travel to H.S. (*Rockford*)
-5th period -Concert Band Black 11:30 - 12: 20 (41 members)
-6th period -Concert Band Gold 11:58 - 12:48 (45 members)
-7th period -Choir (80 members)(Show Choir)
-8th period Travel to I.S. (*Mendon*)
-9th period - 5th grade band (43 members)

(Marching Band, Football season.
Pep Band, BB season)

What I feel must happen for success in a small school:

- **High Standards.** (start in the 5th grade in regard to tone, posture, intonation & discipline) Expect nothing but the students best. (First three or four years, hear students daily. Grade on performance regularly.)
- **Longevity.** (stay and build the program)
- **Dedication.** Be willing to invest the time. (After and before school rehearsals and individual help, pep band, marching band, District rehearsals, honor group rehearsals, clinics.
- **Love your job.** Love teaching children. Love children.
- **Know the community.** Become a part. (I mean go have coffee at the local morning meeting place) - Church - Lions club - Chamber - Volunteer
- **Planning.** Yearly Schedule put out in May (Includes all practice and performances including Marching band, Concert Band , Pep Band and Honors Ensembles. Parkway's goes from July 15th through Memorial Day and Graduation of the next year.
- **Get to know** the Athletic director and coaches. (Remember, they are doing the same job we are. We share the same students. Job performance based on performance of our students. Admittedly, several of the people in those positions, do not share the same Philosophy.
- **Communicate.** (This includes, parents, students, principals, staff, media.
- **Let program speak for itself.** (People know a good thing when they see and hear it.) (Usually)
- **Prepare students.** (Have music selected and to students for more than adequate preparation time.) Again High Expectations.
- **Solo & Ensembles.** Due to location very few if any students take private lessons. Therefore, a strong solo and ensemble participation is expected at the M.S. and H.S. level. (H.S. usually Class A)
- **Ask for help.** (Most directors in your area would be more than willing to listen and make suggestions concerning performance.(Amazing what a 2nd set of ears can hear.)

Parkway Music Accomplishments:

Concert Band OMEA District Superior Rating Class C 1975 - 1985, Class B 1986 - 1995
OMEA State Superior rating Class C, 1975, 77, 80, 82 - 85, Class B 1986 - 1991, 1993 - 95
(Two Bands) Class C District Superior 1996- 2004, Class B 1996 - 2004
State Superior rating Class C 1996, , - 2004, Class B 1996 - 2004
Class A Ensembles (1973 -2004) - 205 Superiors, 66 Excellent ratings.
1985 Concert Band ASBDA National Competition Division I,(Adjudicators Harry Begin, Mark Hensley and John Paynter)
Performed for BGSU New Reading Clinic 1990 and 2003
Performed for Akron University New Music Clinic 1991
7th and 8th Grade Band performed at the 3rd Annual Capital University New Music Clinic 2004
H.S. Concert Band performed for OMEA State Conference 1990. 8th Grade Band performed in 2000.
In 2004 the Parkway Concert Band Gold Class C, Concert Band Black Class B, Womens Chorus Class C and Mixed Chorus were all rated Superior at State level Adjudicated Event.

Method Books Used:

5th Grade - Alfred - Accent On Achievement
6th - Belwin -First Division - Book 2
7th - Belwin - First Division - Book 3
8th Grade - Hal Leonard -Essential Technique
H.S. - Supplemental Books - Tipps & 127 Original Exercises

Recommended Solo & Ensembles:

7th & 8th Grade:

Solo's

Flute - Night Gypsy, Sumerlin - Siciliana and Giga, Handel
Clarinet - Chansons Modern, Hovey - Spinning Song, Endresen - Serenade, Buchtel
Bass Clarinet - Arabesque, Leonard
Alto Sax - Danish Dance, Warren - Rondino, Kresler
Baritone Sax - Aleep In The Deep, Walters
Trumpet - Mira, Vega , all the Vandercook solo's - The Technician, Endresen - English Suite, Fitzgerald
Trombone - Ruby, Pearl etc. all the Vandercook Gems
Baritone/Tuba - Forty Fathoms, Walters - Teddy Bear's Picnic, Bratton
Snare Drum - Nancy, Jean, Bunker Hill, Downfall of Paris Harr - Connecticut Halftime, Ludwig
Keyboard - Sabre Dance, Khatachaturian - 18th Century Theme, Mozart - Hungarian Dance #5, Brahms

Most Ensembles pulled from the Ohio Music Education Class C High School list.

High School:

Solo's depend on individual students ability. I try to give Fresh. Soph. Class B literature, and the Advanced students and Seniors Class A

Class A Playable Ensembles:

Flute Trio - Scherzi no , Anderson/Walters - Classic Fantasy, Wain - Danse des Mirlitons, Tchaikovsky
Flute Choir - Sonata Pian'e Forte, Gabrieli - Londonderry Air, Grainger/Webb
Clarinet Quartet - Suite for Foru Clarinets, C. Smith - Menuetto and Presto, Haydn/Hite - French Suite, Desportes
Clarinet Choir - Divertimento, Haydn/Hindsley - A Difference of Opinion, Roden- Mississippi Rag, Krell/Frackenpohl
Saxophone Quartet - Just For Show, Niehaus - Pollywog's Lake Talk, Ulman
Saxophone Sextet - Coronation March, Mayerbeer/Holmes - Orpheus, Offenbach/Guy
Trumpet Trio - Trumpets of Spain, Nagel
Trumpet Quartet - Torch Dance, German/Fraker - Triumphal March, Verdi/Stube
Trombone Quartet - Main Street, Miller - Achieved Is His Glorious Work, Haydn
Brass Choir - Suite For Brass, Lebow - Requiem and Ritual, Davis - Sonata octavi toni, Gabrieli
Percussion Ensemble (All Mallet) - Hungarian Dance #5, Brahms - Farandole, Bizet/Jeanne
Percussion Ensemble - Encore In Jazz, Firth - Contrarhythmic Ostinto, Iverson - Mosaics for Percussion, DelBorgo