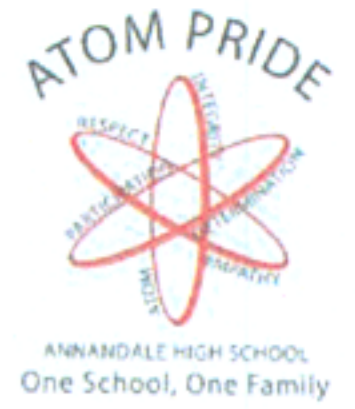




ANNANDALE HIGH SCHOOL BANDS
MARCHING ATOMS
A Sixteen-Time Virginia Honor Band



AHSMB Weekly Update – 10/20/2014

Hello Atoms Band Families,

Director's Notes:

We had exactly the week we needed this past week. Rehearsals were generally focused and we got a lot accomplished. This past weekend the band traveled to Woodson High School to support our Football Atoms. The students represented our program, school, and community with class and pride. *Many* Woodson fans, parents, and even their Activities Director went out of their way to compliment how great we sounded and how much we added to the game! Saturday's USBands Competition, the Marine Corps Invitational, was definitely our best performance yet. We improved in many aspects over the two weeks since the Spotsylvania Competition, but I was most impressed and pleased with the individual progress made by every member of the band. This shows that each person has taken steps to make our overall show better, and that is the fastest way for us to improve.

That wraps up our competition tour, and we will now be preparing for the Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors Association (VBODA) State Marching Band Assessment. This is our summative experience for the year and the first half of qualifying to be a Commonwealth of Virginia Honor Band. Annandale High School has achieved this honor sixteen times. I believe we are right where we want to be and will continue putting ourselves in position to achieve a superior rating.

Thank you to those who worked the concession stand at the JV and Freshman games this week along with our chaperones (for Friday and Saturday), uniform moms, pit crew, spirit wear coordinators, band staff and all others who supported us this past week and weekend.

Homecoming Week

This week is filled with Homecoming activities and will be an exciting time around AHS. The band will perform at the bonfire on Monday, as well as both the pep rally and homecoming parade on Friday. Please see the schedule below. The boosters will feed the students between the parade and game Friday.

Saturday

On Saturday we will perform in two fall parades in the Annandale area: the Annandale Fall Festival Parade and the Chapel Square Parade. We do not have a competition Saturday and hope our students who chose to go will have a great experience at the homecoming dance.

Fundraiser!

Our Citrus and Poinsettia Fundraiser has begun. Students in received their materials in class last week, except for R1 Concert Band who will get theirs Monday. Please ask your student to see the materials. We would like to see 100% participation and each student sell *at least* five items (hopefully more!). Students who sell at least five items by Friday will have their names entered into the Quick Start drawing for gift cards to various restaurants/retailers. Students

JOSEPH WITKOWSKI
DIRECTOR OF BANDS
JPWITKOWSKI1@FCPS.EDU

@AHSATOMSBAND
4700 MEDFORD DRIVE
ANNANDALE, VIRGINIA 22003

SCOTT NIEHOFF
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF BANDS
SNIEHOFF@FCPS.EDU

have their name in the drawing for every five items they sell (ten items doubles chances of winning). Those students' names will stay in the "pot" for the end of sale prizes including the grand prize, a \$200 Visa gift card. Please consider assisting your student with this important fund raiser. Students should not go door to door to solicit sales, but family friends, neighbors you know, places of worship, and work places are strong possibilities for support. Please see the packets given to your student or www.annandalebands.org for more information.

Playoffs

Another win this week has increased the likelihood that the football team will make the playoffs. Please put Friday, November 14th on your calendars as a likely playoff night. If the season ended now, not only would we make the playoffs, but we would be hosting the first round game at home. If this were to come to fruition, we also will need lots of concessions help for what would likely be a very well-attended game.

Cold Weather

Please see previous updates or the website for the cold weather attire policies. The students did a great job of complying on Friday Night.

VBODA State Marching Band Assessment

I will have the schedule ready for this by Wednesday night of this week. We would love to have a strong presence from all those who support our Marching Atoms and their incredible efforts!

This week's schedule:

Monday: Homecoming Bonfire – Report: 6:15 p.m., Perform: 7 p.m., Dismissal: approx. 8 p.m.
Dress: AHS Spirit Wear

Tuesday: Rehearsal – 2:30 – 5:30 p.m. – Back Parking Lot

Wednesday: Rehearsal – 4 – 6:30 p.m. – Back Parking Lot

Thursday: Rehearsal – 2:30 – 5:30 p.m. – Back Parking Lot

Friday: Homecoming Pep Rally – During the school day (R7 class period) Dress: AHS Spirit Wear
Homecoming Parade – Report: 3:15 p.m. Parade Steps off at 4 p.m. Dress: Full Uniform
Dinner provided by AHSBB

Home Football vs. West Springfield High School

Saturday: Annandale Fall Parades

Report: 8:30 a.m., Dismissal: 1:30 p.m. (or earlier!)

Dress: Costumes by section

On the horizon:

Friday, October 31st – Home Football vs. West Potomac H.S. (Senior Night)

Saturday, November 1st – VBODA State Marching Band Assessment @ South Lakes H.S.

Thank you, always, for your support.

Go Atoms!

-Joseph Witkowski

Jpwitkowski1@fcps.edu

(703) 642-4247