

**Summit Music Parents Association
General Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2018**

General Membership Meeting – 7:30 p.m.

Welcome – Stefanie Faris

- President Stefanie Faris welcomed parents and encouraged them to join SMPA. Membership forms are available in paper form or online.
- SMPA is always looking for volunteer help, especially with the football game concession stand. All proceeds go to SMPA and fund band, orchestra and chorus.

Treasurer Report – Christine Detweiler

- SMPA 2018-2019 fiscal year budget was handed out. Christine noted that the key columns are the approved 2018-2019 fiscal year budget and the fiscal YTD actual expenditures.

Vice President Report – Mr. Maliszewski

- This is Mr. Maliszewski's 40th year in education, 25th in Summit. He remarked that Summit is an extremely generous community that does not "support the arts" but rather "demands the arts,"
- Mr. Maliszewski noted that the SMPA used to be "Band Parents" but now it is "Music Parents". SMPA focuses on capital investments in the music program (concert piano, tympani, risers) and provides enrichment opportunities like master classes, trips and scholarships..
- Carol Meiseles, Director of the Lakeland Youth Symphony, will be substituting for Mrs. Vierschilling for two weeks.

Orchestra Report

- Students Sophie Li and Nicole Lee, co-presidents, presented on the SHS Orchestra program.
- Orchestra is off to a great start. We have 18 freshmen this year who came in on Tuesday, 8/27 for orientation; many tried out for chamber.
- Chamber tryouts were held 9/11 and the first chamber rehearsal was 9/12. Chamber's first performance will be at Rutgers String Day on 11/3. Parent drivers will be needed.
- Auditions for orchestra seating will be held at the end of September. Students may ask librarians for copies of music.
- Nicole Lee qualified for National Honors Orchestra (Violin I) and will be performing in November. She will also be performing with All State Orchestra in Atlantic City and at NJPAC.
- Regions auditions will be held on 10/15.

- High School Music Masters performance will be held on 11/14. We hope to introduce the Hilltop electric string quintet that day (courtesy of an SEF grant).
- 12/12 is the winter concert.
- On 12/17, Chamber Orchestra and Chamber Choir will be performing at the Grand Summit Hotel for the Rotary and Lions Club.
- An audience member had a question regarding master classes. The students explained that in a master class, a professional will come into the school, perform for a class, teach the students about how he or she goes about learning a piece, and then work with small groups.

Chorus Report

- Students Kate Tully and Caroline Abut presented on the SHS Chorus program and shared their experiences.
- Concert choir is for 9th-12th grade Boys and 10th-12th grade Girls. Treble Choir is for 9th grade Girls.
- The Chorus program has “Bigs and Littles” pairs so that underclassmen can get to know upperclassmen. A senior or a junior is paired with a sophomore or a freshman.
- Chorus features a “Choir Member of the Month”, one male and one female student who stands out.
- There is an audition-based Treble Choir for girls which is new this year. Its first performance will be in March. Chamber Choir is an even higher level opportunity.
- Regions and All-States are great experiences where you can meet and perform with students with a passion for singing from all over the state.
- New as of last year is an acapella club which is student-run.
- Social media is how chorus program information is disseminated so follow [summitschorus](#) on Instagram.

Band Report

- Mr. Bocchino presented on the SHS Band program.
- Marching Band performs in the fall. This year’s halftime show is themed “Let’s Dance”. The Marching Band is led by the teaching staff, drum majors and section leaders. On Move-Down day the Marching Band goes to LCJSMS to perform for the 8th grade band, and the following Saturday home football game, the 8th grade band plays with the Marching Band in the stands.
- Wind Ensemble is audition-based – auditions are held in February. This spring, the Wind Ensemble will be playing at Carnegie Hall along with Chamber Choir and Chamber Orchestra.
- After Marching Band concludes, Concert Band begins. In December, Concert Band performs its winter concert.
- For enrichment, the band program hosts clinicians throughout the year. Over the last two years, SEF grants have provided clinician opportunities such as Hamilton drummer Andres Ferrero and Lady Gaga’s keyboard player Brockett Parsons.
- Big Band auditions will be held on 9/27 (9/30 for drummers and vocalists to follow later).
- The 46th Annual Big Band Dance will be held on 2/6/19.

- Mr. Bocchino gave a brief recap of the 2018 Nashville trip and remarked that we are planning this year for the Spring 2020 trip.

Volunteer Report – Michelle Morrissey

- SMPA has revamped its website. Please visit smpasummit.org
- SMPA is in need of volunteers for the concession stand at home football games, especially second shift (over halftime). For Friday Night Lights, double the regular amount of volunteers are needed. Please consider helping out.
- If you are not getting SMPA emails, please check spam or junk. If you are still not getting them, please contact Michelle (michelle.morrissey@me.com)

Committee Reports

- Myrene Reyes discussed Pledge Day which will be held on 11/4. It is SMPA's biggest fundraiser. The number of students participating is the single most influential factor towards how much is raised. We also need drivers, which must be parents.
- Francie Cho discussed Concession Stand operations and emphasized the need for volunteers.

Closing

- Stefanie noted that seat plaque forms will be available at Back to School Night
- The next General Membership meeting will be held on 1/7/19 at 7:30. College music majors and music conservatory students will be present to discuss music in higher education and as a career. Parents and students are welcome to attend.

Meeting adjourned (adjournment time not noted)