



# SHS BAND BOOSTER NEWSLETTER

~ From Many, One ~

DECEMBER 2021

## A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

**Rick Barlow**

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Christina Kayalik, Editor

Photos courtesy of :  
Barb & Jose V., Maui M.,  
Rick B., Valerie M.,  
Vinnie I.



## Sunny Days and Starry Nights

We approach the close of the calendar year with a sense of purpose and wonder.

Our purpose resides in the resolution of a successful marching band season that saw each one of us either dust off the cobwebs or stretch our practicing and performance skills and talents in ways never before experienced.

We also yearn for the global COVID-19 pandemic to be forced into our collective rear-view mirror. No “pi,” “rho,” “sigma” or “omega” variants wanted.

The resounding success of the late summer and fall seasons hopefully recharges us for the winter and spring concert and pep band seasons (classical, jazz and pop).

For the student musicians this means plenty of stage time; for the Band Boosters and Band parents, it means plenty of encouragement, participation and support of individual students and the entire program. These commitments span chaperoning and driving to fundraising events and volunteering.

So far, we’ve seen exemplary examples following nearly two years of reduced activities and opportunities – most recently the successful ILMEA festivals, Holiday Concerts and Raffle.

These efforts emerge at an opportune time, too. Thankfully, band program development never skidded to a halt, courtesy of two dedicated directors devoted to the mission and kept the pulse beating, and to student musicians who put in the work to keep the momentum going.

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## A Word from our President continued...

Imagine if neither happened. On second thought, don't. Appreciate what we have. Don't dwell on how much we may have lost, which is popular among the media today, but focus on what we retained and nurtured, making the transition to what's next that much more palatable and reasonable.

It's akin to an open wheel race car exiting the pits with a full tank of petrol, maybe two fresh but cold tires and a wing adjustment. All that's left is to hit the throttle, exit the pits, warm the tires and return to racing speed. The alternative? Stuck in the pits with smoke billowing from the engine and two shredded racing slicks.

Thankfully, we're farther along than that. Think of our position as the point of acceleration after a downshift.

Before we cross the school year finish line in May we have quite a few laps to complete as we listen to and watch teenaged talent under sunny days and starry nights.

For us, the auditoriums and concert halls and gymnasiums should serve as a welcome repast and a foreshadowing of musical development and progress we need right now.

We simply must keep the faith, make ourselves available and invaluable to voluntarism and reinforce our efforts to support the program. There are so many opportunities available that are more painless and less time-consuming than perhaps perceived. From fund-raising (e.g., Dine2Donate, Benefit Mobile/GLS, Bake

Sale and Holiday Raffle) to logistics and travel, you can make a difference with me. I invite you not only to consider it, but also to tap the throttle. It will be worth it all around, and you'll be glad you did.

To those of you who have volunteered faithfully with the SHS Band Boosters to date, I offer you a heartfelt and sincere thank you. Each of you is a credit to this program. To all band parents who support their student musicians in myriad ways, I offer you a hearty salute. To those band parents emeritus – with students who have graduated but remain devoted to this program – you provide an endearing and enduring example to us all. And to those student musicians who participated in the ILMEA District 7 band, choir, orchestra and jazz band festivals last month, and particularly to those who will represent Schaumburg High School at the ILMEA State Conference next month, congratulations. You epitomize SHS musical Saxony to the fullest.

On behalf of the SHS Band Boosters, I wish every one of you the happiest of holidays, whether you celebrate Christmas, Hannukah, Kwanzaa, Boxing Day or any other cultural or religious event that is important to you and your family.

Make memories and music together.

**Rick Barlow**  
**President**



## From our Band Student President — Alan Medina

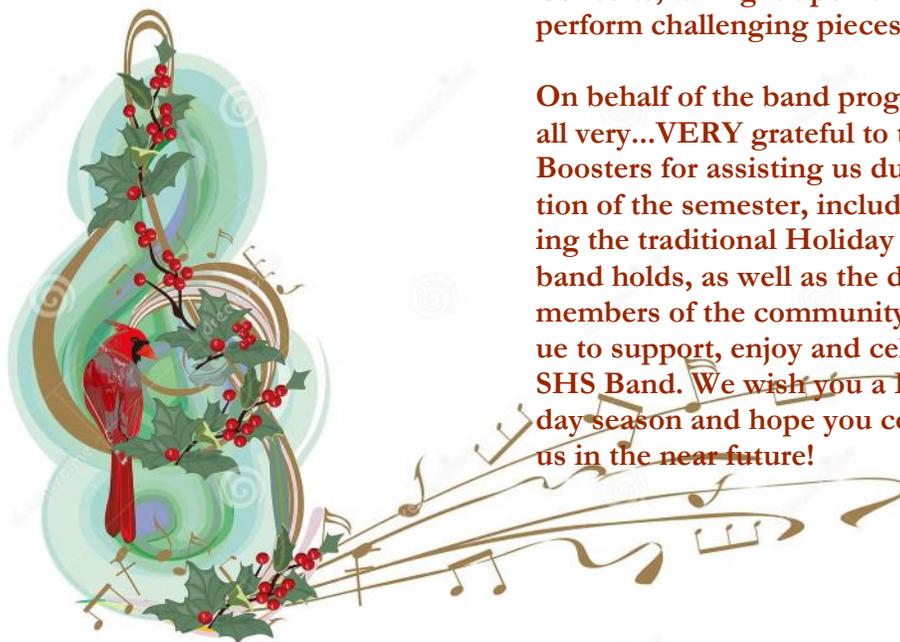
Following the conclusion of the first SHS Marching Band season, the SHS Band has continued to pursue further successes and returned as accomplished and hard-working as ever! All the SHS Bands spent a majority of time rehearsing over the last several months, preparing to perform for the community in anticipation of the return of our traditional annual Holiday Band Concerts. During this time, several select students also participated in the ILMEA District 7 Band, Orchestra and Jazz Ensembles, attending their respective festivals demonstrating exemplary musicianship amidst an extremely competitive audition process. Several band students additionally participated in community oriented projects such as the Tri-M Music Honors Society's food drive.

While pursuing the concert band season, the SHS Band managed to collectively raise over \$1000 for our Adopt-A-Family, continuing the tradition of community service that holds "From Many, One" true to our name. On top of preparing for



the concert band season, the SHS Band has been rehearsing pep band music, adding over five additional tunes to the repertoire. We returned for the first Pep Band game earlier this month, showing great turn out and spirit for a beloved part of the program. To cap things off, all bands participated in our annual Holiday Concerts, taking it upon themselves to perform challenging pieces.

On behalf of the band program, we are all very...VERY grateful to the Band Boosters for assisting us during the duration of the semester, including coordinating the traditional Holiday raffle the band holds, as well as the directors and members of the community who continue to support, enjoy and celebrate the SHS Band. We wish you a Happy Holiday season and hope you continue to join us in the near future!



## FROM THE DIRECTORS' PODIUM...

The SHS Bands have had an exciting conclusion to first semester! Thanks to all of our families and friends who attended the Holiday Band Concerts earlier this month. We were thrilled to have all four concert bands perform and share their hard work with the SHS community.

In November, a school record twelve SHS Band students performed in the ILMEA District 7 Band, Orchestra, and Jazz Ensembles. District 7 spans the north and northwest suburbs of Chicago and is one of the most competitive districts in the state. Congratulations to the following students!\*

- **Shane Andres** - tenor saxophone - band and jazz ensemble I
- **Ramsay Barlow** - flute - orchestra
- **Rhys Barlow** - horn - band
- **Rix Barlow** - trombone - orchestra and jazz ensemble II
- **Anika Bharadwaj** - piano - jazz ensemble I
- **Mhone Bogonko** - clarinet - band
- **Peter Eisenmenger** - drumset - jazz ensemble II
- **Narin Kim** - clarinet - band
- **Josephine Mascarenhas** - baritone saxophone - band
- **Alan Medina** - alto saxophone - jazz ensemble II
- **Daniel Pasman** - bassoon - orchestra
- **Genna Vilorio** - bass clarinet - band

*\*see a pic of these students on p. 2*

Finally, just a reminder that due to social distancing requirements, the Pep Band Concert has been rescheduled from Tuesday, January 18th to Wednesday, January 26th at 7pm in the Main Gym. We hope to see you then!

Wishing you a wonderful holiday season!

**Vinnie Inendino & Anthony Graffeo**



# Sounding Board



## SHS Saxon Band Leaders Pump Up the Volume

Believe it or not, kids can say the darndest things (not just on TV!), but musically inclined teens can draw out the cleverness, humor, intelligence and wit about life in band.

We asked the band leadership – drum majors and section leaders – to share thoughts about their experience so far by responding to 10 simple questions. We feature five questions here and five in the next edition of the *SHS Band Boosters Newsletter*.

Read on for some breadth, color and depth from ten talented student musicians you may have been watching for the last few years but definitely for the last few months.

**Alan Medina, Drum Major, Senior, Class of 2022**

**Instrument(s) in your repertoire:** Violin, piano, trumpet, clarinet, flute, saxophone

**Junior High attended:** Frost

**Andrew Fitch, Section Leader, Junior, Class of 2023**

**Instrument(s) in your repertoire:** Alto saxophone but a few more

**Junior High attended:** Frost

**Divya Saikumar, Drum Major, Junior, Class of 2023**

**Instrument(s) in your repertoire:** Clarinet

**Junior High attended:** Keller

**Jessica Eaton, Section Leader, Senior, Class of 2022**

**Instrument(s) in your repertoire:** Trumpet, French horn, mellophone

**Junior High attended:** Keller

**Mhone Bogonko, Section Leader, Junior, Class of 2023**

**Instrument(s) in your repertoire:** Clarinet

**Junior High attended:** Keller

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# Sounding Board

**Mihir Shah, Section Leader, Senior, Class of 2022**

**Instrument(s) in your repertoire: Trumpet**

**Junior High attended: Addams**

**Ramsay Barlow, Section Leader, Senior, Class of 2022**

**Instrument(s) in your repertoire: Flute, piccolo**

**Junior High attended: Addams**

**Rhys Barlow, Section Leader, Senior, Class of 2022**

**Instrument(s) in your repertoire: French horn, mellophone, trumpet**

**Junior High attended: Addams**

**Rix Barlow, Section Leader, Senior, Class of 2022**

**Instrument(s) in your repertoire: Trombone**

**Junior High attended: Addams**

**Samantha Mean, Section Leader, Senior, Class of 2022**

**Instrument(s) in your repertoire: Piccolo, flute**

**Junior High attended: Frost**

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**DINE TO  
DONATE!**

December 22  
11 AM—10 PM



906 Bode Road, Schaumburg, IL 60164 (847) 781-0820

**DINE TO  
DONATE!**

December 22  
11 AM—10 PM



# Sounding Board

## *Why does band matter to you? What makes it so important and valuable?*

**Alan:** “Music in general is one of the most important things to me. It’s what makes life enjoyable to live, and the connections/memories you foster in band make it invaluable.”

**Andrew:** “For me, band only became something I love as much as I do once I started high school. It’s almost equally about improving as a musician and being involved in the best community the school has.”

**Divya:** “Sometimes school and personal life get super tough, but I literally always look forward to band because it takes my mind off all of the external things, and I get to contribute to a greater cause of making music. Additionally, I’ve met so many great people in band, including my best friends, so band is another reason to have fun with them.”

**Jessica:** “It brings people together from all types of backgrounds.”

**Mhone:** “You learn many valuable real-life lessons yet in a safe, family-like environment.”

**Mihir:** “Outside of being able to play music, band has a community full of like-minded people that can positively influence you.”

**Ramsay:** “Band is important to me because it grants access to a large base of friends immediately upon joining. The friendly environment fosters long-lasting friendships.”

**Rhys:** “Band is something I’m good at, and it is home to a sort of ‘second family.’ You can always find friends in band.”

**Rix:** “Band matters to me because it’s a place where I can be myself and have fun. It’s important to me because I can express myself in more than one way.”

**Samantha:** “Band has not only given me a community I can thrive in, but has taught me discipline, dedication and hard work. Because music has always been a large part of my life and making music with wonderful people has been a formative experience in my life.”

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# Sounding Board

## *What is your favorite band memory so far?*

**Alan:** “Hiding Josh Kim’s flugelhorn mouthpiece during a 2019 ‘Anything Goes’ rehearsal.”

**Andrew:** “That question is impossible to answer. In terms of in band activities, it’s very likely my freshman year when we went to NIU. We got rained out and it seemed miserable on the outside, but it was SO FUN. I’m not sure why but that day is what comes to mind when I think of marching band.”

**Divya:** “Mr. Graffeo doing his Kermit voice freshman year.”

**Jessica:** “Freshman year band camp.”

**Mhone:** “Takeru playing his solo in the concert for ourselves in the band room.”

**Mihir:** “My favorite band memory is the sophomore year NIU trip where we got rained on but still managed to have a lot of fun.”

**Ramsay:** “Both my first and last marching band performances.”

**Rhys:** “I don’t have a favorite. For the sake of this survey, let’s say the pep band game of December 10, 2021.”

**Rix:** “My favorite band moment so far would probably be the grade school tours and seeing how excited all the kids got.”

**Samantha:** “When, during band camp, Mr. I called, ‘Parade rest’ and Yuma yelled, ONE!”





# Sounding Board

## *What is the most valuable lesson you have learned by serving as a drum major/section leader?*

**Alan:** “If you genuinely (assuming selfless in motivation for serving; key word SERVANT) care about others, people will listen to you and care about you, too.”

**Andrew:** “So, so much. The most valuable lesson is how A.) taking responsibility for your actions is extremely important. If you mess up, say you messed up and fix it. B.) Every leader should be a part of the community they lead. I’m great friends with almost everybody in my section, and that’s part of the magic of band. You should be approachable by everybody.”

**Divya:** “As a drum major, I have learned that mistakes are inevitable, but how we bounce back from those mistakes is what actually matters.”

**Jessica:** “Definitely learning to be patient and learning how to respond to tough situations.”

**Mhone:** “Everyone is human. Be a role model but also look up to one.”

**Mihir:** “I have learned the value of teamwork and thinking as an ensemble instead of as an individual.”

**Ramsay:** “I have learned how others can bring a variety of different perspectives, allowing them to come up with solutions I could never even think of initially.”

**Rhys:** “The goal for every leader should be to get people to trust in you and believe in you. Be someone they can put their faith in.”

**Rix:** “That messing up is fine, and people won’t judge you for it as much as you think.”

**Samantha:** “I learned that working hard for others is much more fulfilling than only working for myself.”





# Sounding Board

## *Where is the best place you've played and/or practiced your instrument?*

**Alan:** "Pick-Staiger Concert Hall at Northwestern University."

**Andrew:** "My grandpa's recording studio; heard things in my playing I'd never noticed before. Listening back to recordings of your playing is super useful, even if you just record with your phone."

**Divya:** "The best place I've practiced is in Josephine's basement."

**Jessica:** "In San Diego, California, when I marched DCI. We played during the sunset near a beach."

**Mhone:** "Prairie Center."

**Mihir:** "Spring Valley."

**Ramsay:** "On the MPO [Midwest Philharmonic Orchestra] or Spring Valley stage."

**Rhys:** "Hemmens Cultural Center."

**Rix:** "Sursa Hall, Ball State University."

**Samantha:** "NU concert hall."

## *Where is the wackiest/weirdest place you've played and/or practiced your instrument?*

**Alan:** "Sewage system."

**Andrew:** "BATHROOMS. It sounds weird but TRY IT. It's a natural reverb chamber and it sounds much better than a bedroom or closet."

**Divya:** "I've played my clarinet in a cabin in the middle of the Appalachian Mountains."

**Jessica:** "On top of a hill."

**Mhone:** "Car."

**Mihir:** "My closet."

**Ramsay:** "In a bathroom inside a locker room."

**Rhys:** "I would say the zoo."

**Rix:** "I would say in my bathroom because I wanted to hear me echo."

**Samantha:** "My garage."

Winter  
music

*In the next edition, read about practice and performance motivations, advice to incoming freshmen, and of course, sought-after superpowers and more!*







## Band Boosters Meetings

7:00-8:00 PM  
SHS Band Room

- January 11
- February 8
- March 8
- April 12
- May 10



## Dine-to-Donate

- 12/22 - Old Town Pizza on Bode
- 1/12 - Portillo's on Golf
- \*1/24 & 1/25—Jersey Mike's on Golf
- 2/9 - Village Tavern on Wise
- 2/23 - qp Greek Food with a Kick on Roselle
- 3/10 - Pilot Pete's at Schaumburg Airport
- 3/30 - Brazil Express Grill on Roselle
- 4/13 - Portillo's on Golf
- 4/27 - Oberweis on Roselle
- 5/11 - Village Tavern on Wise

*\*Our own double-header precedes the Pep Band concert on 1/26*

## Band Boosters Board of Directors



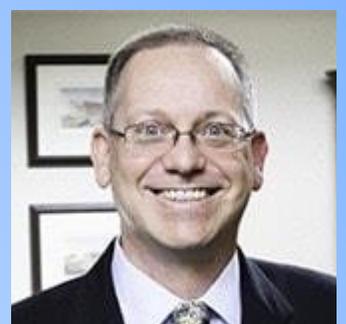
**Rick Barlow**  
President



**Alan Grimm**  
Vice President



**Mary Wishnew**  
Secretary



**Dan Albreth**  
Treasurer

**Contact the Band Boosters!**

saxonbandboosters@gmail.com

**Check out our Shutterfly Page!**

<https://schaumburgbandboosters.shutterfly.com>