

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Shepherd Hill Music department! As a parent of a student in the music department, you are invited to join the Shepherd Hill Music Parents Association, or SHMPA. What exactly does the SHMPA do? We support the music programs beyond the district and school budgets. Our by-laws state our objective is "To assist the Music Directors and support the activities of the Shepherd Hill Regional High School Music department and to provide experiences outside of the typical high school music curriculum within the established policies of the school. All activities and decisions of this Association will conform to the views of the administration and the Music Directors of Shepherd Hill Regional High School."

SHMPA meets the first Thursday of every month from September to December; and the first Wednesday of every month January - June, from 6:30-7:30pm in the Library at Shepherd Hill. Exception is March 6 due to Family First Night. We will meet Thursday, March 7 instead. The SHMPA executive board for 2018-2019 includes Hilary Grabe, President; Terry Salonis, Vice President; Julie Shaw, Treasurer; June Ellen Cloutier, Associate Treasurer; Kristie Laabs, Secretary; Julie Winans and Nicole Szretter, Member at Large, and Becky Bussiere, Choral Director; Dave Macuga, Band Director.

We are excited about our new Choral Director, Becky Bussiere, and new Band Director, Dave Macuga. Both are graduates of Shepherd Hill Regional High School and former music students. There is no doubt Becky and Dave will continue to grow the music programs and department here at SHRHS. In the past, few years, our programs have continued to grow and bring in more students. More student involvement requires more support for the program, and we encourage you to get involved. SHMPA helps the Music Department host a Marching Band Festival, a Show Choir Festival, and a Winter Guard and Percussion Festival annually. We run the biggest Craft Fair in Central Massachusetts! And we support all the performing ensembles behind the scenes on a week to week basis.

In addition to our investment of time, we also support the program financially. We pay for additional staff to assist our show choir, winter guard, winter percussion, and marching band programs; for custom music arrangements, drill design, and choreography; for sets, props, and equipment just to name a few. A budget is attached for this school year so you can see what we financially support. We are very fortunate to live in a school district, where the school committee and the superintendent are VERY supportive of the arts programs in our schools.

**SHMPA runs several fundraisers through the year that need YOUR participation.**

We use Sign Up, formerly known as Volunteer Spot, to help manage our volunteers for our fundraising events. Simply sign up on-line for days and times that are convenient for you, and an email reminder for you will be sent before the event. We do not share your email with anyone. The only people who have your email address are the

secretary of SHMPA, chairpersons for Gillette fundraiser, Mrs. Bussiere and Mr. Macuga. Here is the link to sign up to Volunteer at any event by SHMPA.

<http://signup.com/go/KEmKKL>

Our biggest fundraiser is the Festival of Crafts, which takes place on the third Saturday in November. This event raises an average of \$19,000 each year for our programs. We need every parent to volunteer to help with this event and other events throughout the year. We are in our third year of fundraising through Gillette Stadium where we get to run a concession booth at several events. We have the opportunity to make over \$1000 at each event. This is a great way to meet other music parents while you help support the music program. Each date requires 8-14 volunteers. We are continuing an incentive program. Great news! To support our volunteer numbers needed to meet our 2018 Gillette Fundraising Contract terms, Gillette volunteers will earn a \$20 credit (up to \$100/5 events) when they volunteer at Gillette events in the 2018 contract year!

Credits earned can be applied to either a SH music student's account, Work Study Program to benefit a student in need or back to SHMPA. All credits are paid out after the monthly Gillette check is received and validated. Since the credit is per volunteer, if dad volunteers 5 times, mom volunteers 5 times and their student volunteers 5 times, they can earn \$300 in credit. Friends, family and ALUMNI are all welcome to participate!

As always - Any questions at all, can be directed to Kristie Laabs at [klaabs@charter.net](mailto:klaabs@charter.net) or Kristin Doyle at [4doyles@charter.net](mailto:4doyles@charter.net).

Here is the link to sign up....<http://signup.com/go/KEmKKL>

We hope you will join us for our first meeting of the year, **Thursday, September 6 at 6:30pm** in the cafeteria. Please feel free to reach out to the music directors, or any other board member with any questions. The SHMPA email is [SHRHSmusicparentsassoc@gmail.com](mailto:SHRHSmusicparentsassoc@gmail.com)

Sincerely,

Hilary Grabe

President, SHMPA