

WHITE OAK BANDS

June 26, 2008

Dear Roughneck Band Members,

Believe it or not it is time to start planning for SUMMER BAND! 2008-2009 promises to be a great year for the Regiment of Roughnecks. It will be an exciting time with many new faces, new names, and a very full schedule of events.

Let me tell you a little about myself. My name is Jason Steele. I am a graduate of Kilgore College and the University of Texas at Tyler and I have been a band director for nine years, three years at New Diana and the past six years at Pittsburg. I am originally from the East Texas area and I graduated from Spring Hill High School (please do not hold that against me.) My Aunt, Uncle, and Mother are all White Oak Alumni and most of my family has lived here since the 1960's. My wife is D'Anne Steele and we have been married for eight years. We have two children, Jordan who will be in first grade at White Oak next year and a Travis who is a year and a half old.

I can not begin to tell you how proud I am to be your band director. The few times I have been in the band hall to see Mr. Crim, I have been really impressed with you and the work that you do. It is my goal to take the rich heritage and history that is so well established here and build on it even more. I want to make band exciting, educational and most of all fun. **My guidelines are simple: be respectful to yourself and others, have a positive attitude, and be willing to work very hard.** It is not my goal to change anything. I simply want to build on what has already been your tradition and create a band that is skilled and respected throughout the state. I know you will be proud of what we can accomplish together.

Enclosed is a calendar of events for summer band and the fall semester. If you received one from Mr. Crim, at the end of the school year, you will notice that nothing has changed. **Please remember to arrange your work/vacation schedules to be at all practices. It is vital that I have every band member present at each rehearsal.** If your athletic practice conflicts with ours I will work it out with the coaches. I encourage participation in athletics, as I did both when I was in school. Also, keep your Monday nights clear for evening practice from 7-9PM from August 25th through October 20th.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me. I will be at the band hall most of the summer except for a brief time while I plan to take my family on a short vacation. Also, my e-mail should be active in about a week.

Sincerely,

Jason Steele

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