



# KILTIE KEYNOTES

## Director's Notes

**Andrew Dubbert, Director of Bands**

Welcome Back, and Happy New Year. There are a lot of big opportunities coming up for our students, and I'm excited how many of our students are taking advantage of them.

Solo and Ensemble is a great event, and I believe it is the best learning opportunity that the Florida Bandmasters Association (FBA) provides for us. Students get the opportunity to pick their own music and perform with either a small group or as a soloist. Students can pick their music based on their ability level, and they can create a group with their friends. Normally I pick the music and that is what we learn. With this event, not only do the students pick what music they like, but they get to apply all of the things that we have been working on in class to make their performance unique. All of our Wind Ensemble members are participating, and the participation from the Symphonic Winds and Varsity Band has taken a huge step forward this year. I'm excited to see how our students grow after this performance opportunity.

The Florida Music Educators Association (FMEA) sponsors many ensembles at the FMEA Professional Development Conference. We are very fortunate to have many hard working students audition for these All State

Bands. It is not common for students to make the All State Ensembles, but we are proud to have had three of our Kilties representing us this year in the All State Ensembles. Alex Garcia is a Senior who plays French Horn. He was a member of the 11/12 All State Symphonic Orchestra this year, and I'm very proud of his hard work and leadership. Sophia Tarlton is a Sophomore who plays Bassoon. She was a member of the 9/10 All State Concert Band, and I enjoyed watching her music make progress every week leading up to the audition. Moriah Emrich is a Sophomore who plays Flute and Piccolo. She was also a member of the 9/10 All State Concert Band, and she was able to take a boring etude and give it musical character. All three students really made an emotional connection with their audition, and I'm extremely proud of their achievements.

This year is flying by, and I thank you for hanging on with me. Parents, thank you for letting me push your students. When they come home discouraged, I know it is difficult to motivate them to keep working hard. But there is nothing like the accomplishment of performing difficult music at a high level. Long story short, yes, they should be practicing. And they can do it.



# From the President

**Leeann Putney, Kiltie Band Booster President**

What a year it's been so far! The Kilties continued their 61-year streak with straight superior ratings at Marching Performance Assessment. Our band then traveled to Hollywood over Thanksgiving weekend to march in the Hollywood Christmas Parade, representing Sarasota with pride and making memories that will last a lifetime. We now look forward to an exciting concert season ahead.

As we move into the new year, my 2-year term as Kiltie Booster President is drawing to a close. When my sons started in band, I never dreamed that their involvement would lead me to this volunteer position. I have learned so much and grown in so many ways in my time with the Kiltie Boosters. Someone recently asked me what was the best part, and several things come to mind. Many of the people in my close circle of friends I met through volunteering with the Kiltie Boosters...serving food together at concessions, helping to fit uniforms, or chaperoning on a trip.

I have had a front row seat to watch what will be some of my kids' best memories of high school. Not just the big moments, but the smaller moments watching them laughing with friends or quietly encouraging each other.

There is also the satisfaction and pride in knowing that you have left a great organization a little better than it was before. We implemented several great new things during the past year, including the Charms band management system and setting up systems to enable us to accept credit card payments for everything from trip payments to concessions purchases. We also created an online profile with The Giving Partner. This will increase our organization's visibility within



our community as well as provide fundraising opportunities such as participating in The Giving Challenge later this year.

When I was approached about a leadership position, my first thought was that I could never do as well as those who came before me. I was assured that everyone brings their own personality and skill set to each role, and this is very true. Over the next couple of months, our nominating committee will be looking for that special combination of parents who will provide leadership for the Kiltie Boosters in the upcoming school year. We are looking to the parents of our freshman and sophomores who will be the future leaders of this

Leeann Putney  
and her boys, Ryan  
and Adam, at  
MPA.

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# The life of a Kiltie volunteer

**Shamika Smith, Volunteer Coordinator**

Many people think of parent groups as being all about bake sales. Or they think of power-tripping moms ruling their domain, like Desperate Housewives and Harper Valley PTA. Well, that's good TV, but it's not us.

Kiltie Band Boosters are about men and women working together towards a common goal. That goal is creating a better band and an exciting experience for our children. We strive to create an atmosphere where the band directors and auxiliary staff can do their best work — and so can our children.

For the first half of the 2019-2020 season, we have provided support at:

- 16 games including Freshman, JV, Varsity and Playoff

- 6 Concerts/Parades including the Fall and Winter Concerts, Marching MPA, Sarasota Veteran's Day Parade, Hollywood Holiday Parade and Sarasota Holiday Parade

- Uniform Check Out, Ice Cream Socials, Kiltie Camp and a host of other activities that go on behind the scenes to ensure the success of the Kiltie Marching Band

There's a lot more to be accomplished for 2020, and we need your help. There will be committees forming for Kiltie Awards Night and Senior Celebration, Spring Concerts, Concert MPA and more. Despite what you might see on TV, our parent group is not a bunch of crazed, power-hungry moms. We are moms and dads, uncles and aunts, grandparents, and friends who care about our children and supporting the Kiltie Marching Band however we can. We are welcoming and friendly.

Volunteering doesn't mean a huge time commitment. One game, one concert or a few uniform repairs makes a big difference. There are plenty of jobs to fit your time schedule and interests. If you are good with a sewing kit, or even able to sew on a button, we need you. If you are a master griller or like to wrap hamburgers next to the grill, we need people like you. If you want to be a parent in the stands on Friday nights, Freshman and JV games are in desperate need of you. It's easy, and it really makes a difference!

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## ***From The President Continued from previous page***

organization. The Kilties would not be able to do what they do without our support. I encourage those of you who have dipped your toe in the water of volunteering and enjoyed the experience to go all in. I have never heard anyone say they regret being a part of this organization; however, I have often heard people say they wish they had gotten involved earlier. It is

true what they say — these high school years fly by.

I encourage you to attend our booster meetings, which are held on the second Monday of each month at 6pm in the band room. Upcoming dates are Feb. 10th, March 9th, April 13th and May 11th. These meetings are a great chance to get to know our band director, network with other parents, and be the first to hear about upcoming events. Come join us — I'll see you there!

# Awards Night and Senior Celebration

René North, Awards Ceremony Coordinator

It may seem strange to discuss our annual end-of-year celebration so soon, but many things go on behind the scenes now in preparation for that evening. This year's celebration will take place on **Friday, May 8, 2020**. Mark your calendars!

For those unfamiliar with the event, this is an evening for all Kilties and their families to celebrate the success of the year. We will start the evening in the RPAC, where awards are handed out to underclassmen and seniors. Both the students and parents enjoy the video "year in review" and a video display to honor our graduating Senior Kilties. We follow up the event with a reception for all.

For families with Senior Kilties, you will soon receive emails from me requesting certain items. That will include five candid photos of your Senior Kiltie at these ages: (a) as a baby or toddler, (b) elementary school, (c) middle school, (d) a photo from their senior year, and (e) an official Senior photo or nice photo taken during their Senior year. The email will come from this email address: [KiltieSenior@gmail.com](mailto:KiltieSenior@gmail.com). Your photos are used as part of the celebration in the RPAC; we want everyone to participate.

As always, it takes a lot of people to make this event special for all. Please consider stepping up. We have the following sub-committees:

**In preparation for the event (work to be completed now):**

- Communication Committee
- Video Planning Committee
- Presentation & Gift Prep Committee

If you have a senior student, you are welcome to participate with the planning of this event to ensure it is special for your graduating Kiltie.

**The day of the event (work to be completed a month before event and evening of event):**

- Reception Committee
- Decoration Committee

Traditionally, parents from grades 9 – 11 help on the day of the event so our 12th grade parents can enjoy the ceremony with their student.

A Sign-up Genius will be sent soon requesting volunteers for the preparation committees. There are many tasks that can be done from your home. Please contact me for further details of if you have questions at [KiltieSenior@gmail.com](mailto:KiltieSenior@gmail.com). Lets work together to make the 2020 Award Ceremony memorable for all!



This year's senior class.

Photo by Gary Bolinder

# New Kiltie merchandise!

René North, Kiltie website

We have new Kiltie merchandise available now! All merchandise is available in limited sizes and quantities. As always, a small percentage of each purchase from the Kiltie store is donated to the Kiltie Band. Please go to the Kiltie Store in Charms and place your order.

(Some of these photos of the clothing show the products before the Kiltie logo was added.)



■ “Kiltie Mom” shirts are charcoal color with the Kiltie logo embroidered in white. They are made of 100% combed ring spun cotton, ribbed V-neck,  $\frac{3}{4}$  length sleeves and classic, relaxed fit. They are \$20 each.



■ “Kiltie Dad” t-shirts are also charcoal color with the Kiltie logo embroidered in white. They are made of 100% ring spun cotton with a rounded neck. They are \$20 each.



■ For a limited time, we are offering plaid cape wraps with the Kiltie logo embroidered in white. This cape is one size fits all. They are \$30 each.



■ We now have our baseball caps fully stocked. They are offered in three colors: maroon, light gray, and black. The baseball caps have the Kiltie logo embroidered on the front and the words “Tradition of Excellence” on the back. They are \$15 each.

# About Those Uniforms ...

**Janet Ballard, Uniform department**

Happy 2020 Riverview Kilties! What a great year 2019 was, and we are looking forward to another year with the Best Band In All The Land!

Even though it's quiet "on the front lines," there is a lot going on behind the scenes, especially in the uniform department.

All hats should have been turned in. Please check your lockers, cars, backpacks, under your beds for any hats. Also, if you have any extra cap badges laying around, please return that too (no questions asked!)

Keep in mind all of the uniform parts and pieces are very expensive. The cap badges are \$10.00 a piece.

Buttons are also a very pricey item. Each button is \$1.00. Each jacket has 28 buttons! For future reference, when you pick up your uniform from the cleaners, please try to check and make sure all the buttons are attached and the cap badge comes back with your hat. Don't be afraid to ask the cleaners if they have any extra buttons laying around!

We are in the process of ordering many new parts and pieces. We would like to order new musician hats, belts and spats. We are also looking at going with a different shoe company for 2020, as many Kilties had issues with shoe quality.

We would also like to order some new kilts. New jackets were discussed because we have not ordered jackets in several years. Jackets are custom made and run close to \$300 a piece. There is also a significant turn around time so we have put jackets on our "future wish list."

Dancer and guard uniforms were also discussed, especially dancer jackets, which have not been replaced

in many years.

Since we are in a "quiet period," if your Kiltie has any issues with their uniform such as ripped seams or missing buttons, now would be a good time to bring this to our attention.

We could also use help with sewing on buttons, so if anyone has extra time, please let us know. It takes an army to run this great show so thank you everyone!



Photo by Gary Bolinder

# All State recognition

Three of our Kilties made this year's All State Ensembles and participated in All State Concert Band and All State Symphonic Orchestra January 9-11 in Tampa.

Please congratulate, from left to right, Sophia Tarlton, Alex Garcia, and Moriah Emrich



## A California sunset

Thanks to Leeann Putney for sharing this group photo of the Kilties at the Santa Monica Pier during their trip to the Hollywood Christmas Parade.



# Alumni news: Once a Kiltie, always a Kiltie

Kim Collins Klunder, Alumni Liaison // [Kiltiealumni@yahoo.com](mailto:Kiltiealumni@yahoo.com)

Homecoming 2019 was a total BLAST!!! It was great having so many alumni come back to march the pre-game show and play in the stands with the Kilties. We had 60 alumni show up, and the class of '98 got the award for biggest class representation with 15. Way to go class of '98! Thanks for talking it up and inviting friends.

A big thank you to all who participated. Several students told me that they had fun with the alumni in the stands... yes those beach balls added much excitement. All Kiltie alumni are welcome, so please be on the look out for Homecoming 2020, and come join us.



Big thanks to Trisha Johnson for making our NEW Kiltie Alumni Banner!



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