

Band camp

(continued from page 1)

"If it weren't for him, we'd be pitiful," says Maria Dobinick, vice-president and Color Guard captain.

Maria, and many of the seniors, have been in the band since seventh grade. She loves to connect with the audience during the performance. Ben Wolfe, president and a trombone player, enjoys the competitions. The Lake-Lehman band has traveled from Florida to Toronto for contests. This year, Lake-Lehman and Dallas will return to compete at the ACC November 14 at Montage. "It's really exciting," says Ben.

Alison Piatt serves as Drum Major again this year. "It's an honor and a responsibility," says Alison. "I naturally like to tell people what to do. I like to be in charge," Alison comments with a smile. Her leadership role requires commitment of time and energy; she practices all summer, and some days spends as long as 13 hours working. "We're like family," she says.

Friendships created during the grueling practice days last through the school year. Josh Keller, the Senior Representative, plays the trumpet. "They become your best friends," he says. Stephanie Pineno, treasurer, plays the vi-

"I naturally like to tell people what to do. I like to be in charge."

Alison Piatt
Lake-Lehman Drum Major

camper's oven.

Faythe Roberts, who is co-chaperone with Amy Boytin, says that she loves to watch their progress from day to day. "We're surrogate moms," she laughs. Her daughter Amy plays the clarinet. But these moms are ready for anything. Armed with ace bandages and ice bags, they prepare for the inevitable bee stings, sprains and bruises that come with six straight days outside. Parents create and sew the color guard's costumes, their flags, any props, and other costumes.

Senior Nicole Julian, the band secretary, says emphatically, "You couldn't be here if you didn't love it."

Dallas High School

At Dallas High School, the band is smaller but the practices are just as intense. There, students attend camp for two weeks before school, practicing the music and polishing the routine. The band has 45 students, including nine in Color Guard and 10 in the percussion pit.

Todd Hunter has served as the Dallas band director for 10 years. This year's music is "Channel 1" by Bill Reddi, a jazz piece that was made famous by Buddy Rich. "The students had a lot of input," says Hunter, and the students chose this music, although jazz is tricky and very sophisticated. It's hard to teach the interpretation and the concept, notes Hunter, but the band is motivated by the challenge.

"It's my favorite jazz song," says senior Gene Koshinski. "The music is clever, and the first movement is driving." Sophomore Kevin Covert, who is in his first year as Drum Major, says this band plays jazz very well. He plays the clarinet and base clarinet, and is excited to be leading the band. "Mr. Hunter likes us to get experience," says Kevin.

Hunter states that the Dallas band will go to the ACC again this year, but that they are planning to back away from too many competitions. The goal is fun and a good



Lake-Lehman band campers, practicing last week. Photos clockwise from left; Greg Piazza studied his music on the "sidelines," set up to simulate a football field; Some of the Color Guard, from left, Melissa Evans, Sarah Brin, Melissa Hughes, Michelle Wentzel; Edward Richards, band director, having some fun with the sticks. Far left, Michele Lawlor took a swig to cool off on a hot day.

POST PHOTOS/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK



braphone, xylophone, and marimba, and extols the benefits of the bonds among players. The band members have parties, and often socialize.

Parental involvement is key to the students' success. Mary Piatt, Alison's mother, drives the official "Band Camper," a large camper that serves as the unofficial band parents' headquarters. "We're here to assist," says Piatt, who feeds the instructors every day. Last Wednesday, all of the parents made a picnic lunch for the students. "We love being with the kids," Piatt says, just as she is about to put another cake in the

musical experience, according to Hunter.

Tenth grader Shawna Williams plays the flute and joined the band because so many of her friends are in it. Piccolo player Amy Ferko also loves the "big family" of the band. The camaraderie is clear at rehearsal. Students tease and joke, and aren't afraid to ask questions. "Do I walk forward or backward?" asks Amy Koshinski, an alto-sax player. She and junior Margie Macri both think of the band as something fun to do, better than lying around at home.

Jerry Baldauff counts out the steps as the drill instructor, and his wife Heather Baldauff directs the color guard. "They're a good group of kids," says Jerry. Baldauff's easy rapport with his charges belies both his and his students' dedication.

Band leader Hunter emphasizes the benefits of band participation. "It's one of the most whole-

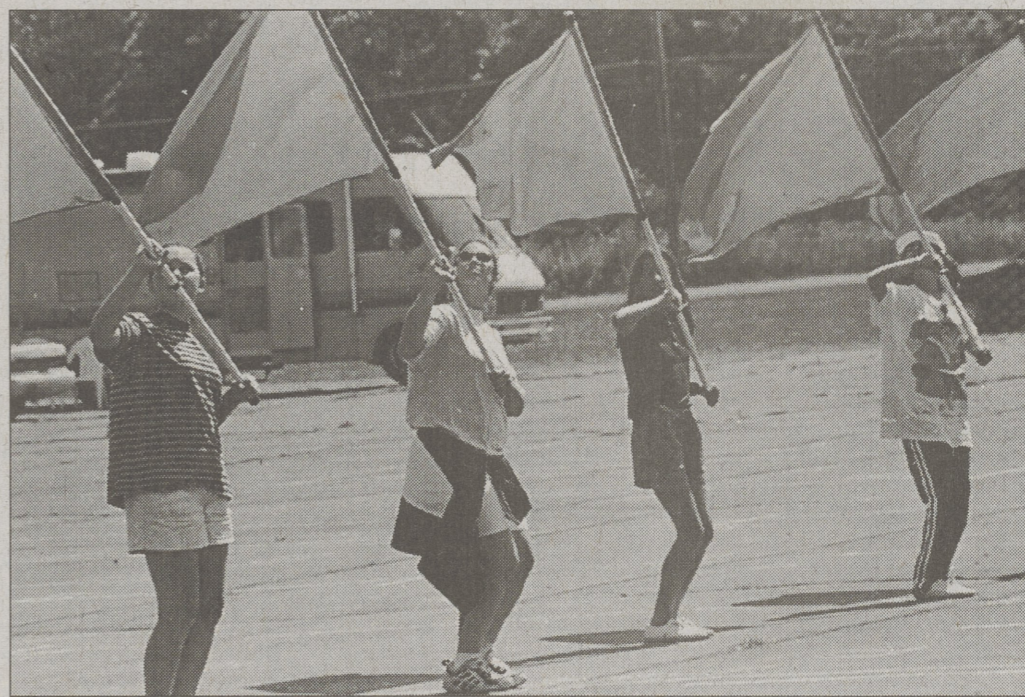
some and beneficial educational activities." Students use every part of their brains: motor skills, creative skills, esthetics. Coordinating their feet to music is difficult and challenging.

"These kids are special," adds Hunter. "They aren't too shy about

"These kids are special. They aren't too shy about working hard."

Todd Hunter
Dallas band director

working hard. They understand discipline and organization, and it carries over into their academics."



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