



**East Mecklenburg Band Booster Club**

**6800 Monroe Road**

**Charlotte, NC 28212**

Supporting

East Mecklenburg High School Band

Scott Clowes, Director

[www.eastmeckband.com](http://www.eastmeckband.com)

March 3, 2006

Dear Parents,

My name is Les Ingles. My wife, Martha Ellen, and I are co-presidents of the East Mecklenburg High School Band Boosters. I'm writing this letter to share some of our experiences being associated with the East Meck. Band over the last four years and hopefully to enlist your support in encouraging your rising Freshman to continue their participation in the band.

The band program at East Meck is outstanding. We are fortunate to have Scott Clowes, widely regarded as one of the top band directors in the state, as the school's director. Mr. Clowes has been at East Meck for almost 20 years, establishing a level of consistency and performance that we believe is unmatched in this area. Over the years, the band has established itself as one of the top performers in North Carolina and consistently receive superior ratings at their marching and concert competitions. We believe though, the most impressive testimonial to Mr. Clowes' leadership is the extremely high retention rate of the band members. Most incoming freshmen who join the band stay with it through their senior year. And, perhaps just as important, the band enjoys very strong support from East Meck's principal, Mr. Mark Nixon.

So what do the kids really experience as a member? Beginning with band camp, they will quickly feel like they belong. Mr. Clowes continually stresses to the upperclassmen the importance of helping the freshmen assimilate into and be welcomed into the band. By the time school starts, they will have already developed a high school identity, "they are a member of the band" and will know over 100 students beyond those they went to middle school with. Second, they will form very close bonds with each other; relationships that will last through their senior year. You will hear them complain about how hot it was during practice and how hard they had to work, and how "Clowes" made them do the same part of the show over and over, but then you'll see their excitement and determination as they march onto the field for their football game performances and competitions.

