

# Strike Up the Band!

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*"If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away."*

— HENRY DAVID THOREAU



**M**onarch Stadium promises to be an exciting place filled with tremendous talent as the Marching Monarchs make their inaugural debut this fall.

**2009 Football Schedule**

9/5/2009	Campbell University	Buies Creek, N.C.	1:00 pm
9/12/2009	Guilford College	Fayetteville, N.C.	1:00 pm
9/26/2009	Emory & Henry College	Fayetteville, N.C.	1:00 pm
10/3/2009	Maryville College	* Maryville, Tenn.	1:30 pm
10/10/2009	Ferrum College	* Ferrum, Va.	2:00 pm
10/17/2009	Shenandoah University (HOMECOMING!)	* Fayetteville, N.C.	1:00 pm
10/24/2009	Averett University	* Danville, Va.	1:00 pm
10/31/2009	North Carolina Wesleyan College	* Fayetteville, N.C.	1:00 pm
11/7/2009	Greensboro College	* Greensboro, N.C.	7:00 pm
11/14/2009	Christopher Newport University	* Fayetteville, N.C.	1:00 pm

*\* Indicates a conference game*

Charles Dumas, former band director at Douglas Byrd High School in Cumberland County, was hired to start the band and began work in August of 2008. In addition to teaching part-time, he directed the pep band and started recruiting players for the marching band throughout the 2008-09 academic year.

“Out of the 35 students who were in pep band, we should still have 25 returning members who plan to march this year,” said Dumas. “We have approximately 25 freshmen students who have expressed that they plan to march as well.” Dumas hopes to have about 50 performers on the field for the first football game at Campbell University Saturday, Sept. 5, 2009.

In addition to performing at the away game against Campbell, Dumas said the band will perform at Greensboro College Nov. 7, 2009. “We will try to perform at two local parades, including the Fayetteville Christmas Parade and the Veterans Day Parade. I also plan to make several visits to local marching band competitions through the months of September and October.”

Dumas is excited about the interest expressed by students from Cumberland County. “I currently have five players who graduated from Cumberland County high schools and more coming. We have been very lucky that the students from Cumberland County have taken notice of the good things that are happening here at Methodist and have made the decision to join us for our inaugural year.”

While most of the students performing with the Methodist University Marching Monarchs have a background in competitive high school marching bands, their first challenge will be to make providing entertainment at football games a number one priority. “The fans and spectators at a college football experience desire a very high level of performance, and it is our intent to provide and maintain the game day experience.”

Another important purpose of the Marching Band, according to Dumas, is to give the students who plan to become music educators the chance to learn how to instruct a marching band. Music education majors will eventually have—as part of their participation in the marching band—the responsibility of designing, instructing, and polishing one show per season to be performed at a Monarchs football game. “Secondary school marching band is a huge time and monetary commitment that has a high profile—both at school and within the school’s community,” said Dumas. “We must provide our students

with as much knowledge and experience in this area as possible.”

Soon after Dr. Hendricks approved a three-year plan and budget to start the Marching Monarchs, Dumas started preparing and ordering equipment. “We have purchased a bass drum and two sousaphones, flags and rifles for our color guard to use during the pre-game, halftime, and post-game performances, and of course, we have ordered our uniforms.” Dumas also

purchased a new drum section, including seven snare drums, four quints, and six bass drums. All of the equipment either has arrived or will arrive by the time classes begin in the fall. Within the next year, Dumas plans to add four baritones, vibes, a xylophone, a marimba, flags, a podium, a laptop, a sound system, and drill writing software.

“My number one goal for this year is to provide a quality product that everyone at Methodist and in the Fayetteville community can be proud of and enjoy,” said Dumas. “For the students, the first word I plan to use with them is ‘FUN.’ If they are not having fun and enjoying what they are doing, then I am not doing my job effectively. I plan to stress that we must sound good, look good, and represent our school to the best of our ability.”

For more information about the Marching Monarchs, contact Charles Dumas at (910) 630-7673 or e-mail him at [cdumas@methodist.edu](mailto:cdumas@methodist.edu).

