



YOU ARE INVITED
TO BECOME A MEMBER OF “VIRGINIA’S FINEST”
The Marching Royal Dukes
of
James Madison University
2009 Season

***WELCOME* to James Madison University!**

I would like to congratulate you for choosing to attend one of America’s most outstanding universities. As you begin your college career at JMU, I would also invite you to become a member of one of the most outstanding collegiate marching bands in America, the **James Madison University Marching Royal Dukes**. This is an especially exciting time of year for us as we prepare for another season of the **MRD’s**, and we hope that you will consider being a part of this exciting JMU tradition.

The Dukes carry the title of “Virginia’s Finest,” and wear it with honor. Our 400+ members of the **Marching Royal Dukes** represent every major and department on the JMU campus, with over 80% of the **MRD’s** being non-music majors! So, whether you have marched during your high school career or haven’t had an instrument out in a while, you will have an excellent opportunity to become involved in our program. In anticipation of the countless opportunities that will be available to you when you arrive on campus, NOW is your chance to join in the excitement of being a **James Madison University Marching Royal Duke**. We would like to invite you to become a member of what is truly the largest and most recognized student organization on campus.

Understanding that this is a busy time for you and your family, as you prepare for your move to Harrisonburg and begin thinking about your future at JMU, I would like to point out just a few of the many benefits there are to being a part of the MRD family:

- Early move in to your assigned JMU dorm room (cost of housing and food covered by the band). Instead of moving in with four thousand students, you are moving in with four hundred
- Enjoy all the activities of pre-season band camp and also attend your JMU Freshman Orientation
- Meet new people, as members of the band represent all levels and departments on campus
- Familiarize yourself with campus and buy your books during Band Camp
- Perform the exciting Pre Game, Half Time, and Post Game shows at Bridgeforth Stadium
- Receive college credit (2 credits) for being a member of the organization
- Attend all home games of the JMU football team – 2004 National Champions
- Travel with the football team to selected away games
- Travel and perform with the band to special performances, parades, and festivals

This list, as you can imagine, could go on forever. To read more information about the rich history, awards, and performances of the **Marching Royal Dukes**, please see the enclosed brochure. You will be amazed at how much our program does, not just on campus, but also in the surrounding community, nation, and around the world. In fact, we are now finalizing our plans to travel to London and Paris during the 2010-11 season, as the MRD's will be featured in the London New Year's Parade. This is a GREAT time to be a part of the **Marching Royal Dukes!**

As a member of the **Marching Royal Dukes**, you will attend our pre-season marching band camp, which begins **August 16th**. While learning the MRD halftime and pre game shows, you will enjoy your time meeting new people, getting to know our beautiful campus community, and becoming a part of the JMU family. In addition to your experiences during camp, you will have a semester full of exciting game days, travel, and performances. You will find that our rehearsal schedule (see brochure) will not conflict with your course work, giving you plenty of time for study and recreation. Many of our students march with the **MRD's** for three, four, or even five years! They enjoy being part of this organization, supporting the JMU Dukes, and being a member of one of the best band programs in the country.

Please take some time to read through all of the enclosed materials and send in your completed registration card to the band office by June 19, 2009. Once we receive these materials, we will send additional information during the summer including: band camp schedule and details, season schedule, show music, and other important **MRD** details. We will reserve a spot for you to be a part of one of the most exciting and outstanding traditions on our campus, the **James Madison University Marching Royal Dukes**.

Return your registration card to:
JMU MARCHING ROYAL DUKES
James Madison University
School of Music, MSC 7301
Harrisonburg, VA 22807

If I can be of any further help, or if you need additional information, please feel free to call, e-mail or write. **Please look forward to more information from the JMU Band Office in August, and enjoy the summer ahead.** I hope to have you as part of the **MRD family** this year and to see you on **August 16th**.

Sincerely,



Scott D. Ridders
Director – Marching Royal Dukes
540.568.6656 – riddersd@jmu.edu

SR/cd

Enclosed