

Joe Mack Hill

Stratford Elementary, Junior High and High School, Stratford
1958-1966

Dumas Junior High, Dumas
1966-1975

Madison Junior High/Middle School, Abilene
1975-2002, 2003-

In the beginning you taught us sounds
As best as you knew or could
But as the weeks went on
We started to sound like we should

We learned how to play brief little scales
And even some short easy tunes
We never thought we would learn
But that would be changing soon

In us you showed not the slightest doubt
As we blasted and sounded like cows
Even though times you had to shout
You would look at us and think "WOW!"

We were always eager to learn
And played better and better each day
Each step we took was a harder song
That blew everyone else away

We love you with all of our hearts
And will never forget the day
You told us to pick up our instruments
And then you taught us to play

That day will be with us as long as we live
We thank you so much for the gifts you give

5-18-2002

TO JOE MACK HILL-

EXCEPTIONAL MUSIC MAKER, INSPIRATIONAL TEACHER

IT IS WITH VERY MIXED EMOTIONS
THAT YOU ARE BEING HONORED TODAY-
HAPPY, FOR YOUR WELL-EARNED RETIREMENT,
SAD, YOU'RE PUTTING THE MAGICAL BATON AWAY!

THERE AREN'T VERY MANY TEACHERS
WHO CAN LEAVE SUCH A HISTORY BEHIND-
LIKE THE LEGACY OF ONE SPECIAL BAND INSTRUCTOR,
WHO INSPIRES BOTH THE HEART AND THE MIND.

PEOPLE LISTEN IN COMPLETE AMAZEMENT'
AT THE PROFESSIONAL MUSIC THEY HEAR,
COMING FROM INSTRUMENTS OF YOUNG AMATEURS-
SOME, HAVING PLAYED ONLY A YEAR.

I WATCH AND LISTEN ENRAPTURED,
AS MY GRANDDAUGHTER PROUDLY PERFORMS HER ART
SHE CAN NOT ONLY PLAY MUSIC BEAUTIFULLY,
SHE PLAYS EAGERLY, WITH JOY IN HER HEART.

HOW WONDERFUL YOUR SATISFACTION WILL BE,
WHEN YOU REFLECT ON YOUR VAST OUT-REACHING,
OF THE THOUSANDS OF LIVES YOU'VE GREATLY ENRICHED,
WITH YOUR GIFT OF INSPIRATIONAL TEACHING!

OUR WORLD IS FILLED WITH BEAUTIFUL MUSIC,
AND PEOPLE, WITH GOALS THEY ARE ABLE TO FULFILL;
BECAUSE OF THE INFLUENCE OF A VERY GIFTED MAN-
MASTER TEACHER, VERY SPECIAL, JOE MACK HILL!

IN APPRECIATION AND WITH GRATITUDE,

RITA RASCO, GRANDMOTHER OF KRISTI HEBERT

Rita Rasco



Mr. Hill

hey I am sure gonna
miss ya I remember when
I came in 6th grade I
was not doing so well.
Amelia with all her
beginer luck was not making
it any easier !/!01) You're not
only just my awesome band
director, but a really good
friend, the helped me overcome
my bad self esteem! The
6th graders next year are
sure gonna miss out! I
hope you have a great
time just relaxing and living
life to the way most people
should! JUST be sure to keep
in touch! Call me some
time. 691-5931
love ya lots
Kristi
Hebert



Maestro bids farewell



Madison Middle School Band Director Joe Hill moves his scooter in closer to get a better earful of his woodwind students' music.

Ronald W. Erdrich/Reporter-News

Madison Middle School music teacher retires after 27 years

By Jade Jackson

Reporter-News Staff Writer

Making music. Ruling the stage. Loving the students.

These are a few of Joe Mack Hill's favorite things, and he will leave them all behind when he retires as Madison Middle School's band director on

Friday.

"They're so fun to be around," Hill said of his harmonious charges. "I'm not young, but I don't feel old because of them."

Hill, whose name has been synonymous with Madison band activities for 27 years, leaves a legion of disappointed musically inclined students in his

wake.

"He's fun and he makes everything exciting," said Meghan Bushek, an eighth-grader who has taken band under Hill for three years.

Toni Wright, 14, agrees.

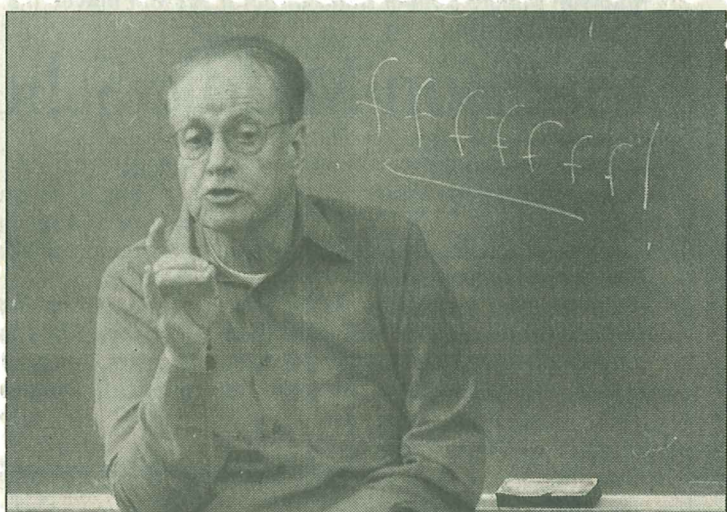
"For (a band) contest, he wore this shirt that said, 'Watch, listen or die,'" said the bassoon-playing eighth-grader.

"It was really funny and it made us pay attention It's sad he has to stop now."

With all the mutual admiration and respect floating around, why leave?

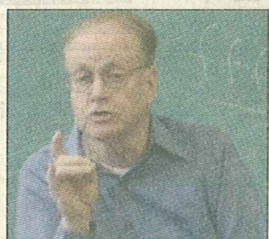
"I'm old," said Hill, 66, with a lift of the shoulders. "I've just done it a long time."

Please see MUSIC, Page 2AA



Ronald W. Erdrich/Reporter-News

Joe Mack Hill emphasizes a note as he monitors the practice of his advanced band at Madison Middle School.



FOND FAREWELL:

Music man retires from middle school

"Certain traditions here need to be carried on, but at the same time, that director needs to be himself and do what he's comfortable with."

— Joe Mack Hill, retiring band director

A wall of trophies to his back, Hill seems a proud patriarch ruling from the seat of his shiny red scooter. The scooter is relatively new, but Hill contracted the polio that made it necessary when he was just 17.

Don't let the scooter fool you.

"I'm a taskmaster. I work 'em hard," Hill said in a voice difficult to imagine ever rising. "But I feel I have a responsibility to get them to achieve as much as they can."

Overcoming his physical limitations to become a demanding maestro did not make Hill a pariah to students but a source of enlightenment, said Madison principal Mac Hurley.

"It's been more of an inspiration for kids to see how he handles his handicap than it has been a true handicap," said Hurley, who has known Hill 22 years. "I've never heard him express one word of frustration over his handicap. Ever."

For 43 of the past 44 years, Hill's life has revolved around teaching band, something evident in the many Madison traditions he either established or upheld.

Hill said his best advice for the next band director is to continue such customs as the Bison Burger Supper and the annual spring banquet at the Abilene Country Club — at his discretion, of course.

"Certain traditions here need

to be carried on," Hill said. "But at the same time, that director needs to be himself and do what he's comfortable with."

And have a supportive spouse. Hill said his wife, Karla, a

teacher who will retire this year at 43 to spend time with him, never missed a concert or a contest in 21 years of marriage.

"If supper burns because I get home late, it's OK," said Hill, who has no particular post-retirement plans. "She understands that."

While he made sure his students cultivated strong work ethics, Hill ultimately wants to be remembered as their friend. If sixth-grader Richard Cornish, 13, is any indication, that mission was accomplished long ago and required no prompting from Hill.

"I'm new here and he taught me everything," said the diminutive, curly-haired clarinet player. "He's the best band director I ever had."



*Retirement Celebration
Honoring*

Joe Mack Hill

♪ Madison Band Director ♪

Saturday, May 18th

NCCIL, 102 Cedar

4:00-6:00 pm

Come and go



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

LARRY COMBEST
19TH DISTRICT
TEXAS

August 8, 2002

Dear Mr. Hill:

I am most pleased to present this American flag which was flown over the United States Capitol in honor of your teaching the children of Texas for 45 years, and on the occasion of Independence Day.

Our flag has a rich history, and I hope that it will serve as a reminder of democracy around the world. Whenever I see it displayed before a home or business, I know that there are fellow countrymen who share my feelings of pride in all that our country stands for. I hope this flag will fly often and be a patriotic reminder of the many freedoms found in this great land.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry".

Mr. Joe Mack Hill



The State of Texas House of Representatives

I, STATE REPRESENTATIVE DAVID SWINFORD, DO HEREBY CERTIFY
THAT THIS TEXAS STATE FLAG WAS FLOWN OVER THE TEXAS STATE
CAPITOL IN HONOR OF;

THE RETIREMENT OF
JOE MACK HILL
45 YEARS OF SERVICE
TO THE CHILDREN OF TEXAS

PRESENTED JULY 4, 2002



David Swinford
State Representative

STATE of TEXAS
HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

P.O. BOX 2910 • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78768-2910

512-463-0718 • 512-463-6244 (FAX)



BOB HUNTER
DISTRICT 71

May 30, 2002

Mr. Joe Mack Hill
4 Mission Hills
Abilene, TX 79606

Dear Mr. Hill:

It was good to read this feature article about your outstanding career as a music teacher—the last 27 years as band director at Madison Middle School.

I know you have had a profound influence for good in the lives of untold numbers of young people and you will be deeply missed.

Best wishes for many happy years ahead as you and your wife begin a new phase in your lives.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Hunter", written over the "Sincerely yours," text.

Bob Hunter

BH:cr

Enclosure

PERSONNEL

CLAUDE BANDS

FLUTES

Nelson, Marilyn
Wiegman, Jeanne

CLARINETS

Boomer, Virginia
Conrad, Carolyn
Chauveaux, Steve
Hess, Charlene*
Hundley, David
McGowan, Jimmy
Obrecht, Paula
Wiegman, Kay
Woods, Neldean*

BARITONES

Goodin, Dick
Heralson, Lester*
Morgan, Marvin

TUBA

Stephenson, Dickie Sam

SAXOPHONES

Cagle, Gerald
Goodin, Jack

TROMBONES

Hood, Dale
Oles, James*
Sutton, Calvin
Thompson, Harold

CORNETS

Byard, Ruby
Conrad, Glenn
Crowell, Dorothy*
McGowan, Tommy
Thompson, Merlene*

PERCUSSION

Byard, Russell
Chauveaux, Doug*
McIntire, Jerry
Osborn, Tommy

BAND OFFICERS

President, Marilyn Nelson Secretary, Glenn Conrad
Vice-President, Kay Wiegman *Cadet Band



Program

CLAUDE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

presents

THE CLAUDE MUSTANG BAND

Joe Mack Hill, Director

Marvin Morgan, Baritone Soloist

with special guests

WEST TEXAS STATE COLLEGE TROMBONE QUARTET

2:30 P. M. -:- Sunday, March 16, 1958

Claude High School Auditorium

PROGRAM

I

Miss Liberty (March).....Karl King

Symphony No. 94 (Surprise).....Joseph Haydn
Andante

Skyline Silhouettes.....Bill Laas
Marvin Morgan

On the Street (March).....Ted Mesang

Air for Band.....Frank Erickson

II.

Three Equali.Ludwig Van Beethoven

Festival Prelude... ..G. F. McKay

Dean Foshee, W. O. Latson, Noel Maxwell, Dan Stallings

III.

When You wish Upon A Star.....Leigh Harline

No Name (Novelty)Ben Vitto

Our Heritage (March).....Karl King

STRATFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PRESENT

A PUBLIC SCHOOL WEEK

PROGRAM

SMORGASBORD DINNER

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL BAND

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL BAND

DIRECTED BY JOE MACK HILL

VISITATION

MARCH 3, 1960 — STRATFORD SCHOOL — 5:00 TO 9:00 P. M.

PROGRAM

I.

THE JUNIOR HIGH BAND

Concert March	Fred Eager
Firework Music	George Frederick Handel
La Nuit (The Night)	John Cacavas
Ain't We Got Fun	John Kenyon
Tango Tropical	John Kenyon

† † † †

II.

THE SENIOR HIGH BAND

Fantasy for Band	Frank Erickson
Prairie Reflections	John Warrington
Prelude to Act V from the Opera "King Manfred"	Carl Reinecke
Canadian Sunset	Eddie Heywood Arr. John Warrington
Elmira (Concert March)	George Abbott
Highlights from "The Music Man"	Meridith Wilson Arr. Alfred Reed
Beguine Festival	Glen Osser
Burst of Trumpets (March)	Harold Walters

THE MADISON BANDS
present
THE ANNUAL SPRING CONCERT

Tuesday, May 14, 2002

8:00 P.M.

Madison Auditorium

THE BEGINNER BAND

Honor Guard (Concert March) Jay Chattaway
Oxford Overture Anne McGinty
The Lion Sleeps Tonight Arranged by Mike Story
Star Wars (Main Theme) Arranged by Carl Strommen

THE SEVENTH PERIOD BAND

Bunker Hill (Concert March) John Edmondson
Harrowgate Overture John Edmondson
"Bach" to the Future Arranged by Jerry Williams
Phantom of the Opera (Main Theme) Arranged by Paul Jennings
Songs of America Arranged by Lloyd Conley
America, Keller's American Hymn, America The Beautiful

THE FOURTH PERIOD BAND

John Williams: Movie Adventures Arranged by Michael Sweeney
Star Wars, Duel of the Fates, Jurassic Park, Theme from E.T.
On A Hymnsong Of Phillip Bliss David Holsinger
Russian Folk Fantasy James Curnow
The Cowboys John Williams, Arranged by Jay Bocook
God Of Our Fathers Claude Smith
Hymn by George Warren

(Over for Band Personnel)

The Big Band sound will soon be heard
Throughout our city, state and nation.
The jets will carry a whole Cougar herd
To Rose Bowl land for a marching vacation.

Among the Band's some 500 youths
More than a third are Bison exes,
Madison bred and proud it's the truth,
Glad to be counted the Best of the Bestes.

The Cooper Band's successful seasons,
Their selection as a Rose Bowl Band,
All stem from one abiding reason -
So many were trained by the master's hand.

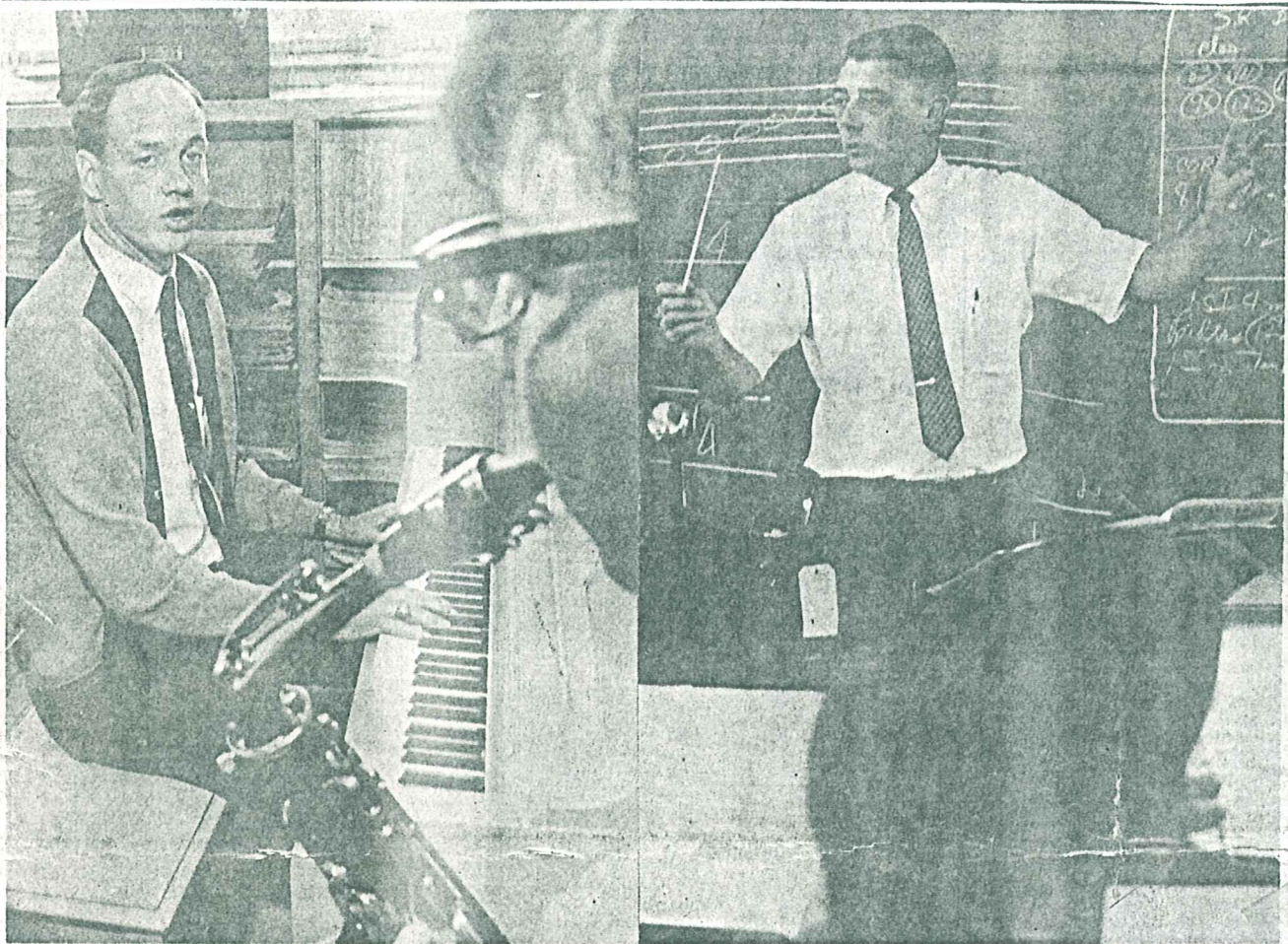
Joe Mack Hill, the epitome of great,
The essence of kind, an example of fair,
He's touched many lives, affected their fate,
Diverted strong wills by daring to care.

We honor him now with a token of love,
One that we hope will be a surprise.
Honored because when push comes to shove,
This leader's bands are truly a prize!

L.A. on Friday and Ports O'Call,
Disney for Saturday, Studio on Sunday,
New Years Eve and Medieval Times for all,
Five miles of marching on Monday.

The Band Parents invite you, Mr. Hill,
To be our guest at the Rose Parade,
To see the results of drill after drill -
We want you with us the rest of the way!

-Cathy Clement
April 28, 1989



THE BIG SOUND OF Dumas High school Demon band and the Dumas Junior High school band results from the efforts of band direc-

tors Joe Mack Hill (left) and Don Craig. Craig directs the Demon Band, while Hill is charged with the Dumas Junior high band.

TOP SCHOOL BAND TEAM

Directors Get Big Band Sound

The big sound of the Dumas Demon Band and the junior high school Imp band at fall football halftimes or at special band concerts that is always a crowd-pleaser, results from the efforts of possibly the best school band team in the state, Dumas High band director Don Craig and Junior High director Joe Mack Hill.

The third member of the team -- and one they consider indispensable -- is Mrs. R. H. Moser, who works with both bands and with individual students.

For both Craig and Hill, school is almost a year-around teaching assignment -- both are on 11 months duty. In the fall, school starts early, with getting the Demon marching band in trim for the season's first halftime show. The end of school for them does not come in the spring, but at the end of four to five weeks of summer band.

Both Craig and Hill have a novel arrangement, which works out well as evidenced by the honors both the Demon and Imp bands have earned.

Working as a team, Craig heads the Demon band and is assisted by Hill the first period of the school day. In turn, Hill directs the junior high band the sixth period of the day, with Craig working as his assistant.

At other periods of a normal school day, Craig is working with beginners bands -- all sixth graders -- at Sunset and Morning-side schools while Hill works with bands at Hillcrest, Green Acres, and the Cactus school.

The music and teaching careers of both Dumas band directors is nearly parallel. Both grew up in small towns, were interested in sports, attended and graduated from West Texas State University, and finally ended up teaching in the Dumas School teaching in the Dumas

football, basketball, and baseball.

"I went to West Texas State because of an uncle of mine, Ray Schultz, who used to be a teacher here," recalls the Demon Band director. "He was stationed at Dalhart and at Amarillo with the Air Force, and went to West Texas. He liked it -- and I followed him," Craig ex-

School district.

Craig, however, is a native of Nebraska, who "went to a small town school where everyone did everything." He started in band as a coronetist in the third grade and also managed to play



THIRD MEMBER OF THE Dumas school band team is Mrs. R. H. Moser, shown working with Dumas Junior High school student. Mrs. Moser, who has been a school teacher here since 1949, is considered an indispensable member of the school band teaching team by directors Don Craig and Joe Mack Hill.

plans.

Hill, on the other hand, is a native of the North Plains, who grew up in Spearman. He began his band career in the fourth grade, also choosing the coronet as the instrument he wanted to play.

The Imp band director was also interested in sports and played football and basketball until his junior year in high school. During the summer he suffered a crippling attack of polio and was hospitalized at Plainview.

"The teachers at Spearman would send my school assignments down to the special education teacher there," says Hill. "We started school in the hospital -- and I was the only pupil," he adds.

Hill was released from the hospital on Thanksgiving day, but was still confined to bed. It was not until after Christmas that he returned to school, just two weeks before the semester exams.

In spite of the illness, Hill finished high school and was valedictorian of his class. That same year, Hill and Craig first met and the two struck up an acquaintance that later became a friendship.

"I first met Don when I was a high school senior," Hill recalls. "He was driving a bus for the West Texas choir, and came to Spearman for a concert. I was a ticket taker, and we got acquainted out in the hall during the concert," he adds.

Craig, who graduated from WT in 1953, took his first teaching assignment at Armstrong School. Five years later, he came to Dumas as junior high band director, a position he held for seven years.

Three years ago, he succeeded Fred Carpenter as director of the Demon Band.

Under Craig, the Imp band won the University Interscholastic League's coveted Sweepstakes award three times. During the 1967-68 school year, the Demonband won that same award for the first time in its history.

Craig has a sharp, to the point, reply when asked how he feels about teaching.

"If I didn't like it, I wouldn't be in it," he says, summarizing his feelings.

A 1958 graduate of West Texas State University, Hill came here three years ago after eight years of being director of the Stratford High school Elk band.

Under his direction, the Imp band has won the UIL Sweepstakes award once, and narrowly missed on another occasion.

"I decided to come here on the basis of what I know about Dumas and I felt that I would enjoy teaching at the junior high," explains Hill.

Hill used one word to describe his thoughts on teaching -- "great."

"But, it would be a terrible job for a person who didn't like kids," he adds.

The third member of the school band team, Mrs. Moser also doubles as an English teacher at Dumas Junior high, with three classes of freshmen English daily.

"I started working with Dumas band students in 1952 at the urging of my oldest son, Dennis, who needed a piano accompanist for his tuba solo," Mrs. Moser explains.

A native Texan, the band-English teacher attended Northwestern University in Oklahoma, and earned her Master's degree at Western State College, Gunnison, Colo. She has done added graduate work at Washington University, St. Louis, Mo.

While working as a teacher in the Oklahoma Panhandle Mrs. Moser, who was a voice

teacher, also became a band teacher.

"That was during World War II, and schools over the area were short of teachers -- especially for music," she says. "I now work with individual students," Mrs. Moser adds.

Both Craig and Hill pay special tribute to Mrs. Moser for the work she does with band students at both the junior high and high school.

"Without her efforts and the time she spends with each student, the Dumas High band and the Dumas junior high band would not have these fine school band musicians," they say.



Madison Middle School photo

Madison Middle School orchestra director Linda Bratton, left, principal Mac Hurley and band director Joe Mack Hill display the first place trophies following Madison's UIL Sweekstakes win.

Madison earns Sweepstakes

The band and orchestra at Madison Middle School are the 2001-2002 University Interscholastic League Sweepstakes winners in concert and sight-reading. Both won first place in the UIL Region 2 contests in Abilene.

The UIL band contest took place April 5 at Cooper High

School, and was hosted by Cooper's Terri Harkey. On April, the Orchestra UIL contest took place at Abilene High School, hosted by Paul Walker.

The band director at Madison is Joe Mach Hill. The Madison orchestra is under the direction of Linda Bratton.

Stratford Concert Set

STRATFORD, March 1 — A Smorgasbord dinner served from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Thursday in the Stratford school cafeteria will be followed by a concert presented by the Senior and Junior High School Bands. The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the school auditorium.

Feature numbers on the program will include "La Nuit" by John Cacavas and "Firework Music" by George Frederic Handel, both performed by the Junior High Band. "Fantasy for Band" by Frank Erickson, "Elmira", a concert march by George Abbott, and "Prelude to Act V from the Opera 'King Manfred'" by Carl Reineck will be presented by the Senior High School Band.

Tickets for the dinner are \$1.25 for adults and \$.75 for children. Proceeds will be used to help finance the high school band's trip to the Tri-state Music Festival held May 4 through 7 in Enid, Okla. There is no charge for admission to the concert.

Madison Band Leader Is Honoree Monday

Joe Mack Hill, band director at Madison Junior High School, will be honored for 25 years of teaching at a reception Monday in the school patio area. Nine of those years have been at Madison.

The reception will be hosted by the Madison Band Parents organization. Former students and friends of Hill are invited to attend, said Sally Orsini, band parent.

Activities will begin at 5:45 p.m. with the annual Bison Burger cookout, a fundraising event for the band. Tickets are \$2.50 and include barbecued hamburgers, dessert and drink.

At 7:30 p.m. the Madison band, composed of about 250 students, will perform a concert in the patio area. The reception for Hill will follow the concert.

Hill, a native of the Texas Panhandle, attended West Texas State University from which he received his bachelor's degree of music education and master of arts degree. He was president of the university band and Psi Band Fraternity. He also was first recipient of the Outstanding Bandsman Award.

He began teaching at Stratford, serving as band director



JOE MACK HILL
...Madison band director

for grades 5-12 from 1958-1966. He then went to Dumas Junior High where he was band director until 1974. He taught distributive education at Dumas High School until 1975. Since 1975 he has been band director at Madison Junior High.

His professional associations include Texas Music Educators Association, Texas State Teachers Association and Phi Beta Mu Band Directors Fraternity. He and his wife Karla are active members of First Christian Church.



Dumas Junior high band built on pride, work, leadership

By GENIE LEE TIPTON

This year's Dumas junior high school band, 114 strong, promises to be one of the best the junior high has produced and the reason could lie partially in the willingness shown by so many students to do more than their share of the hard work involved. Director Joe Mack Hill has instilled a feeling of pride in the students which adds extra incentive to giving a good performance each time they appear.

"We have no major discipline problems," declares Hill, and he goes on to say, "everyone is doing a good job and has the school pride it takes to make a good organization. We have some hard working youngsters and some good leadership in the band."

One group of students cited by Hill are the band officers, who for the first year include a president and four representatives rather than regular officers.

Rodney Strickland, ninth grade son of Mr. and Mrs. Eual Strickland, is president of the band and he has a boy and girl from both the eighth and ninth grade to work with him.

Representing the ninth grade are Lynette Miller and Dennis Collie while Terri Hedrick and Flint DeShazo were

chosen by the eighth grade as their spokesmen.

Another pair of students who have put in extra time and effort toward band improvement is the drum major and her assistant, both in the ninth grade. As in high school, the marching junior high band looks to these pace setters for its field directions.

Kathy Lewis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Lewis, is the drum major for the junior high band and says that she plans to try for the coveted spot in high school when she is eligible.

The assistant drum major, Steve Ramos, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Anastacio Ramos.

Both were selected in tryouts

by an out-of-town judge near the end of last year's school term.

Also selected in the tryouts were five twirlers, three from the eighth grade and two from the ninth, Bekki McCormick and Lynette Miller, who were twirlers last year.

These five, one boy and four girls, spend an hour and 30

minutes in practice together each day after school besides taking private lessons individually. Each has several medals to show for the many hours of practice. The twirlers are required to take both solos and an ensemble to the UIL contest and some will also be playing their band instruments in competition there.

Randy Rollins, the 14 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Sandy Rollins, is the only male twirler and has won the state championship in his class for two years and been runner-up once.

Cheryl Dickey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Dickey, and Terri Warton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don

Warton, are the other two eighth grade twirlers while Lynette Miller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Miller, and Bekki McCormick, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Larry McCormick, are in the ninth grade.

Both Lynette and Bekki plan to try for high school twirling positions as sophomores next year while the others say they will strive to maintain their spots in front of the junior high band.



OFFICERS AND FEATURED TWIRLERS of the Dumas junior high band provide much of the spark for the crack unit. Officers at left and l-r are Rodney Strickland, Terri Hedrick, Flint DeShazo, Dennis Collie and Lynette Miller. Twirlers are four

young ladies and one young man, l-r, Lynette Miller, Terri Warton, Bekki McCormick, Cheryl Dickey and Randy Rollins.

NEWS - PRESS STAFF PHOTO

5/28/2002

Dear Joe Macle,

For you, I am pleased that you are retiring.

For music in the Abilene schools, I am saddened that you are retiring.

I want to thank you for your years of dedication - to music, to the kids, to excellence, to instilling the joy of achievement to so many. You are an excellent teacher, a fine, fine person, and you will be greatly missed.

Mac and I wish you the very best in the coming years. Please know that we admire you.

Bobbie Sumnerlin

5-15-84

DODGE JONES FOUNDATION

JOSEPH EDWIN CANON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Mr. Hill -

It was a real privilege for all of us to attend last evening's band concert at Madison Junior High. The students performed superbly, thanks in no small measure to the leadership and direction you have provided throughout the year. The care and concern which you have for your band students is indeed manifested in their dedication and desire to be a part of the Madison Band group. There is a lot of esprit de corps in that group which certainly emanates from your devotion to those kids.

We in Abilene are blessed to have our children in the fine public schools here. In my judgment, the most vital ingredient in our high quality schools is the teacher. I think that you and some of your worthy colleagues at Madison demonstrate so well the exemplary traits of the teaching profession. We parents owe you a debt of deep gratitude. Our thanks and appreciation go out to you with hearty congratulations upon your 25th anniversary and best wishes for many more years in your very honorable calling -

Sincerely, Joseph Edwin Canon



Bedford Christian Church

May 16, 2002

Mr. Joe Mack Hill
4 Mission Hills
Abilene, TX 79606

Dear Mr. Hill,

On behalf of all of your former students who live too far away to come back for your retirement reception, I want to thank you for your years of service and wish you a "Happy Retirement!"

I'm writing this letter because I couldn't seem to find just the right card for the occasion. All the retirement cards I saw seemed stupid; they seemed to be aimed at people who were just "putting in their time" until retirement and freedom. You've done so much more than that.

I thought about a "congratulations" card - congratulating you on faithful service and a job well done . . . and even for hanging in there when the System turned nasty and it was hard to enjoy. I also thought about a sympathy card, because there is always some loss involved in leaving something which has been such a big part of your life as has been Madison Jr. High/Middle School. Then I thought perhaps I should send the sympathy card to all those poor kids who won't get to have you as a Band Director. They are really missing out.

I learned so much from four years in your classes. I'm thinking of things like self-confidence, teamwork, and leadership - not just the B-flat scale. I stayed in school and I survived until graduation because of Band. I also learned to love music, and for years I wanted to be a band director (or maybe Georg Solti!) because of your example. Better yet, I learned to *learn* - enough to teach myself to be one of the best trumpet players in Trimble County, Kentucky. (OK, so they say this just isn't a musical county!) I still think I followed your example, because your teaching was *ministry* to so many young people.

I thank you for sharing your gifts with all of us. Enjoy your well-earned retirement!

Sincerely,

Gail

Gail Davidson

Come see us in Kentucky any time!

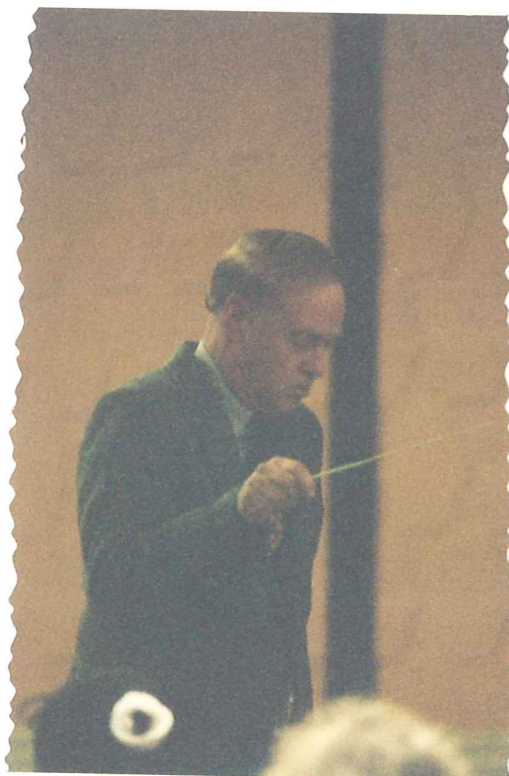
6-1-02

Dear Joe Mack -

Congratulations on a splendid, child-centered career! You contributed a great deal & will continue to do so.

May God continue to bless you & Paula. You have enriched my life & I thank you for that.

Best wishes &
Congratulations
Charles Humbley



My fondest memory is when you first came to Jr. High, during marching practice. We did not get out of line or miss a beat. You just might run over us in your golf cart! HA HA!

Take care & enjoy your retirement.

Mr. Hill,

After so many years of doing something you truly loved, I guess it's time to find something else to do!

★ ★ ★
★ **TO YOU!** ★

★ ★ ★
on your retirement!!

Lebra Cassie Eubanks

May 7, 2002

Dear Joe Mack,

Wow! Can it be time for you to retire? That isn't possible, because only yesterday we were all in your Junior High Band in Dumas, and staying after school sooooo long every day that you gathered all of us up in the back of your Ranchero (?), and took everyone home, one by one. I know we drove you crazy, practicing our band music after school - some days we would have enough kids there to have a full rehearsal, just playing through our music! Then came Marching Band, All-Region, Solo and Ensemble Contests, trying our hardest for Sweepstakes, and great times at Band Camp! All of this while enduring braces on my teeth, and the most awkward social time of my life! And yes, it was the best! I have the fondest memories of those days. And you were my absolute favorite teacher of all!

I was a reluctant Horn player - do you remember? I wanted to play the oboe. (I heard it in elementary music class listening to Peter and the Wolf.) And then Mr. Craig talked me into trumpet, because we already had one, and then you guys ganged up on me and talked me into Horn - which I have never regretted! I think I was finally convinced when you took us to WTSU for the meetings of the French Horn Club. I had to learn to keep up with those college students! And Mr. Haraden ---- all those lessons from him, and later from Tony Brittin at Tech. Do you remember taking me to Tech Band Camp? And how about sharing your TBA vacation with me and some other kids who had to tag along? And isn't it amazing after all these years, that I bought Mr. Haraden's Conn 8D? And even stranger still is that I have played beside another former student or two of yours (at my church) since coming to Abilene.

You always believed in your students, encouraged us to do better, listened to thousands of wrong notes, and only called us "dumb bunnies" when we absolutely deserved the title. (Which, of course, was always the trombone players sitting behind me - never, ever my section!)

Congratulations on your retirement! I pray for blessings for you and Karla as you start this new time in your lives together. You are both very special people, and loved by so many ---- me included!!

Happy Retirement!!



Jan (Miller) Riddlespurger
Dumas Class of 1975

Dear Mr. Hill

I still can't call you Joe Mack after all these years. You'll always be Mr. Hill to me, my favorite teacher of all time. I can't begin to tell you what an impact you have had on my life. I've been told that there are a few defining moments and a few pivotal people that shape your life. I have to tell you that you were one of the pivotal people in mine. Your love for music and dedication to your students inspired me at a very young age to pursue a career in band directing.

Sometimes people ask me when I decided to major in music, and I always say without hesitation, in Junior High. When they give me that funny "Yeah right" look, I know that they did not have a "Mr. Hill" for a band director. They must not have had a director that worked with them until 9pm every night and had to take them home to get rid of them. Their director must not have given them a mouthpiece because the one they had was so bad. He also must not have allowed them to come "bug" him at home any time day or night. He must not have cared so much for his students that he would do anything to help them. I feel sorry for band kids that don't get a "Mr. Hill."

I want to thank you for being my favorite teacher of all time. But more importantly, I want to thank you for continuing to be an inspiration to me as a teacher. Because of your caring and dedication to us, the students of the Dumas Junior High, you set a great example for me to follow. I only hope that some day my students will look up to me like I do you. My goal as a band director is not to have the greatest band, or win the most awards. Great bands come and go. My goal has always been and always will be to help shape the lives of the kids that I teach. My goal is to be someone's "Mr. Hill."

You will definitely be missed by the youth of Abilene. But I am positive that the lessons learned in your bandhall will be remembered forever.

Lynette Miller Fluck

Dear Mr. Hill,

How do you say goodbye to a band legend? I asked my daughter--who learned to play and love trombone under your direction--for suggestions. Bethany said to write about how you taught students about pride, punctuality, and discipline. (I nearly fell over; she actually used the word discipline! AND was thanking you for it!)

She also told me to mention that you inspired students and encouraged young people to develop their musical talents. Think of how many lives have been enriched with music because of you! .

You'll be missed. We can't wait to see you at Art Walk, playing in the Community Band!

Kristy Coker

From Spanish Village to Madison Bcon.
What memories we share! I've
enjoyed watching you grow older
as I get younger.

Madison will definitely feel your
absence, but we will all be
happy for you.

Try not to drive Carla crazy. I'll
see you at church. Happy Retirement!

Love,


Betty Perkins

Mr. Hill,

Thank you so much for your untiring efforts on the behalf of children. I especially thank you for your positive influence in the lives of both my children. You have my best wishes for a restful, happy, and productive retirement.

Lina Wyatt



 **TEXAS**
HILLMOBILE

THE LONE STAR STATE

Mr. Hill,

The one thing I always wanted to do was put a really outrageous flag on your "flying machine." It just seemed fitting somehow. Face it though - you never needed a flag to make your whereabouts known! You made waves wherever you were!

I admire you greatly as an individual and an educator. You will certainly be missed around here.

Think about us at least once as you sit on your patio and sip your coffee!

Love ya ~

Andrew Gardner

Joe Mack,

Although most of my memories are mostly of church activities, I do remember some conversations we had about some "favorite" students. You definitely have my admiration for all the success you have achieved with all the many Band students you've taught.

I hope that first day in your backyard with that cup of coffee will be only the beginning of a wonderful new adventure!
Best Wishes!
Elaine Chapman

Dear Joe Mac,

I have such fond memories of so many neat kids that have been in your program. Some of the kids had never been successful at anything. Yet, you worked with them and helped them experience the feeling of being good at something that was very special to them. Music and the Madison Bison Band.

We have worked on many problems: schedule problems, kids in need, lost instruments, and on and on. In all the years I worked with you, I have never seen you not consider the feelings of the student. You always considered what would be in the best interest of the student. You should be highly commended for that record. I consider it my good fortune to have worked with you. In my mind you are the Madison Bison Band. You are an example of a true professional in education.

I know the hours that you have spent making the band what it was. I know the devoted calls you made to parents and kids during the summer when you could have been at home enjoying the time off.

I Thank You For all Those Many Hours.

Now, Enjoy your retirement. I hope you relax, travel, listen and play beautiful music, and enjoy your time with Carla. Good luck to you.

I would have been at your party if it were not for a broken foot that required surgery. Enjoy the day, and look forward to the future.

God Bless,
Sharon Brown

Dear Joe Mack,

I remember my first experience with you and your band. I was on campus as the new counselor for the next school year and was supposed to be getting a feel for running a 5th grade orientation program. I recall how impressive the band was that day and how well the students had been instructed. As I listened to the band again this year, my suspicions were confirmed. What I had heard the year before was no fluke. The Madison Band is a well tuned instrument year after year after year.

I want to also thank you for helping me during the year. Whenever I needed to consult with you on some matter, you always treated me with the greatest courtesy and kindness, even when I interrupted your classes. I really do appreciate you.

Hope you enjoy your retirement. Someone is going to have some big shoes to fill.

Sincerely,

Larry Ferrell

Dear Mr. Hill,

Madison will miss you very much. We would always see your red truck at school so late in the afternoon. What dedication! I have enjoyed the outstanding band concerts you have presented over the years.

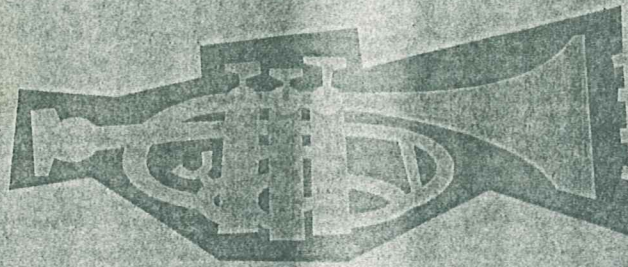
On a more personal note, I am grateful to you for making it possible for Blake to have an instrument to play in the band. You have taught her so much in just a year!

I hope you have a wonderful, relaxing retirement.

Sistie & Blair Wallace

To: Joe Mack Hill

From: Barbara Anderson



You Never Know

You never know when someone
May catch a dream from you.
You never know when a little word
Or something you may do
May open up the windows
Of a mind that seeks the light --
The way you live may not matter at all,
But you never know -- it might.

And just in case it could be
That another's life, through you,
Might possibly change for the better
With a broader and brighter view,
It seems it might be worth a try
At pointing the way to the right --
Of course, it may not matter at all,
But then again -- it might.

Helen Louise Marshall

You have made a difference in the lives of so many of us. Thank you for all you have done through the years. Our children are better people because of you and your dedication to your job. Be happy in your retirement. We shall miss you greatly. Barbara

Dear Joe Mack,

You have done so much to encourage young people, start them on a lifetime appreciation of music and give them a constructive outlet. I speak as a colleague and as a parent of one of your students in thanking you.

May God abundantly bless you in this next stage of life.

- Cathy Hennessy



Your ripple in the pond will have no end
in all the lives you've touched. Thanks for
giving.
Sharon Driggers

Joe Mack,

It seems like only yesterday, we arrived in Madison scared and nervous, but you made us feel welcome.

Then you were such a great inspiration and encouragement to Heather, and she learned so much when she did her student teaching under your supervision. And now you have shared your precious wife with our daughter Emily, and what a blessing that has been.

It has always been remarkable to me how year after year you could take a rowdy bunch of junior high or middle school kids and make such beautiful music. You are truly a master musician, but even more a MASTER teacher.

Thanks for being my friend and making me feel welcome at Madisons.

You will be missed beyond imagination.

Jane
Heger

A little note of thanks



Joe Mack,

Words cannot express how associated you are! You are not only a fine teacher and musician, but, even more importantly, you are a godly example and role model for our children. We are so grateful to you for the work that you do and the person that you are.

Madison Band Parents
2000-2001

Joe Mack,

How well do we remember when you came! It was great then - and it is still great. I'm sorry you won't be at Madison next year to welcome another new player - Kelly!

Thanks for being a friend and a wonderful teacher / mentor to all four Spicer children! We love you!

We are in Tyler babysitting Charlie's children, or we would surely be at your party.

April 28, 2002

Dear Joe Mack,

Patricia and I had heard of your upcoming retirement and were so pleased to receive an invitation to the celebration at the NCCSL. Our problem is that we are leaving on May 15 to go to Germany to see Michael and watch him perform in Josca at the Frankfurt Opera. So, we shall miss your party, but we send our congratulations along with the wish that you will enjoy your retirement as much as Patrice has his!

Thank you for the important part you have played in Stephanie's life. She did not look forward to changing schools when we moved to Chilene in 1979, but she found a home in your band hall and a teacher who not only taught her, but cared about her. You made her adjustment to her new surroundings so much easier. I do believe that you planted in her heart the desire to be a band director, too - a career that has been difficult and challenging and fun and very fulfilling for her. And then, you continued to play your part in molding her when she worked with you during her time teaching at Cooper. She is one of many former students who love you, and we are two of many parents who appreciate you and are grateful to you for your care for our children. Sincerely,
Patricia & Michael McCown

WE ARE
BRIGHTER AND BETTER
FOR HAVING WORKED
WITH YOU.

CONGRATULATIONS
ON YOUR
RETIREMENT

Thanks for the years!
Carlene and Charles
Spicer
and Family

Dear Mr. Hill -

5/30/02

Just wanted to let you know how much I appreciate all you have done for the Madison band in general and ~~for~~ for Katie in particular. When I think about what a hard time she gave you as a 6th grade beginner - mercy! Thank you for your patience, teaching, and encouragement until her attitude could take a turn for the better. I hope and pray that your retirement will be filled with joy and peace. I only wish my younger daughter would have the privilege of playing in your band!

God bless -

Gendi Hahn

Hey Mr. Hill! You are the greatest band teacher! I'm gonna miss you SO much

✶ Kelsey C. Hags!
Kelsey's a free
w/ love from Katie

Mr. Hill -

You are too awesome! It was much fun to be in band w/ you all during 2 yrs! I really enjoyed the lessons you taught me, and you are the best teacher! We're gonna come visit you at your house! haha! I will miss you! You are great!

✶ Katie H.
Lam. 3:22-23

Dear Mr. Hill, ✶

5-30-02

Hey! How are you doing? I wanted to write you a note to tell you how much I loved being in band with you! You are such a great teacher... you have the most incredible gift for music! you inspire me every day to be a better student, and your instruction has helped to shape my life from beginner band until now. You have always been one of my favorite teachers and I'll always remember you!

✶ Love in Christ,
Katie Hahn

Lamentations 3:22-23

Mr. Hill,
 You are an awesome teacher, and
 I'm going to miss you tons!
 Words can't describe all you've
 done for me. I'll be praying for you, and
 I enjoyed being in your class
 this year.
 God Bless You!
 - Rachel Kinnaman

Mr. Hill,
 Hey! I'm gonna miss you next
 year! Thanks for an awesome
 two years! Miss You
 LeAnna Dickey

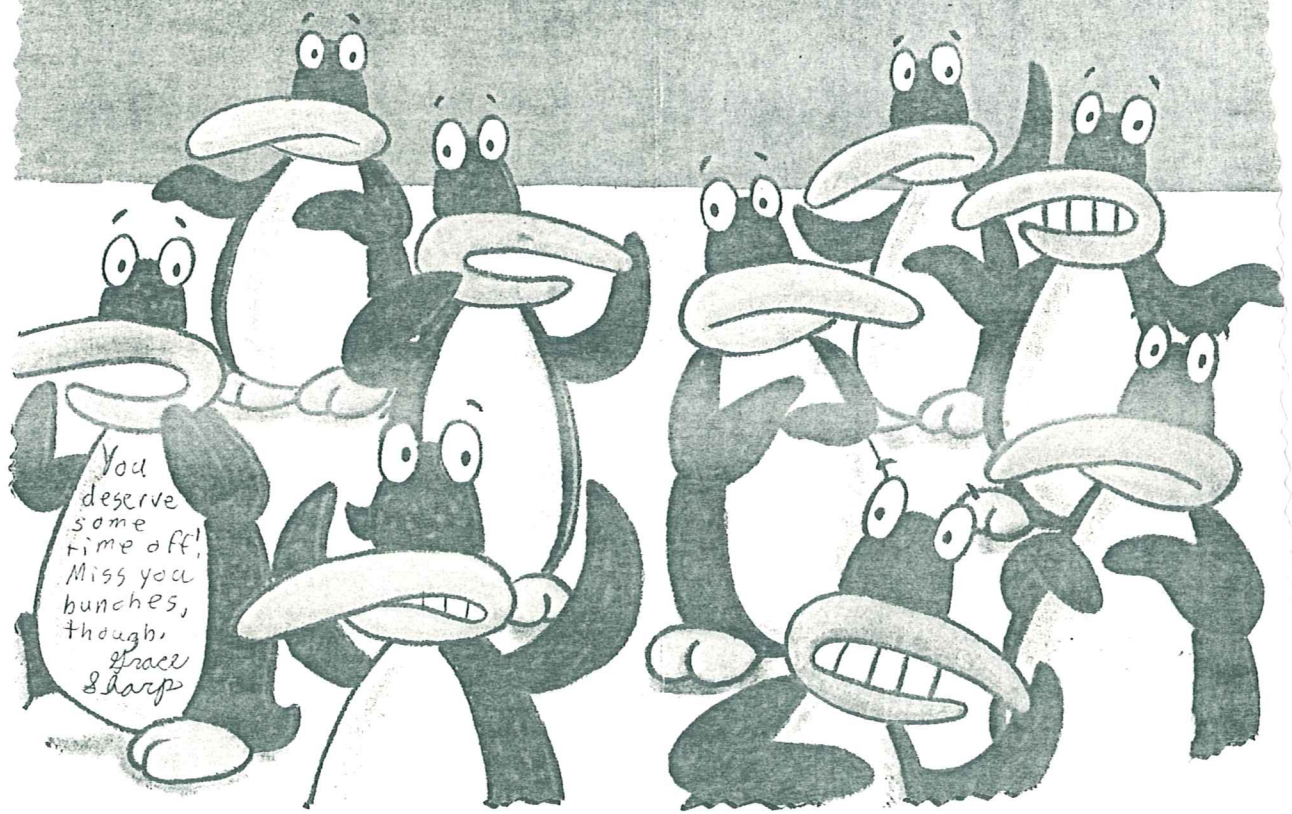
Mr. Hill -
 I'm going to miss you
 so much. You are an awesome
 science teacher + a great guy.
 @ Katy Spradberry

Mr. Hill,
 You don't know how much
 I thank you for teaching me how
 to play. It is a lot of entertain-
 ment. I will miss you so much.
 There will never be another direc-
 tor like you. There will always
 be a place in my heart for you.
 Alex

Mr. Hill -
 Thank you so much for an awesome
 2 years in band. You mean so much
 to me, and I'm really going to
 miss you!
 Sincerely -
 Zane Everts

Mr. Hill
 I will miss you a lot. We
 played cool music.
 Ryan Loman

Waddle we do without you? We'll Miss You!



Mr. Hill,
You are so nice and kind
to everyone especially to me.
I really wish you were
staying here to teach us.
I hope I will see you
still!

~ Jenny S. Davenport



Mr. Hill, You have been
the best band director ever
I wish you were still.
Sincerely,
Jill Cline

I will always remember you, Mr. Hill. You are a great band director, but you are more than just that. You are kind and generous to every person that walks through those band hall doors. You are always ready to lend a helping hand when you can. You are also very patient. I remember one time when I was sitting on the edge of the riser and kept scooting over to make more room. Well, eventually, I had scooted far enough and just toppled right off! After I stood up and picked up my chair, Mr. Hill calmly said to the girl at the end of the row, "Kristy, could you move down, please." And we went right on with class. You are always very reassuring, even without words. If the French horn section had a big part, I would always look up at you afterwards, and you would just give me a little nod, like I had pleased you. There are many lives that you have touched, Mr. Hill. I am sure that Madison's band program will miss you, but the students that you have taught will miss you much more. Thank you for teaching me, Mr. Hill.

- Katie Davenport

Mr. Hill,

I will miss you very much, but I also know I can never forget you. You were always nice to my class and you were especially nice to me. I want to thank you for everything you've done for me.

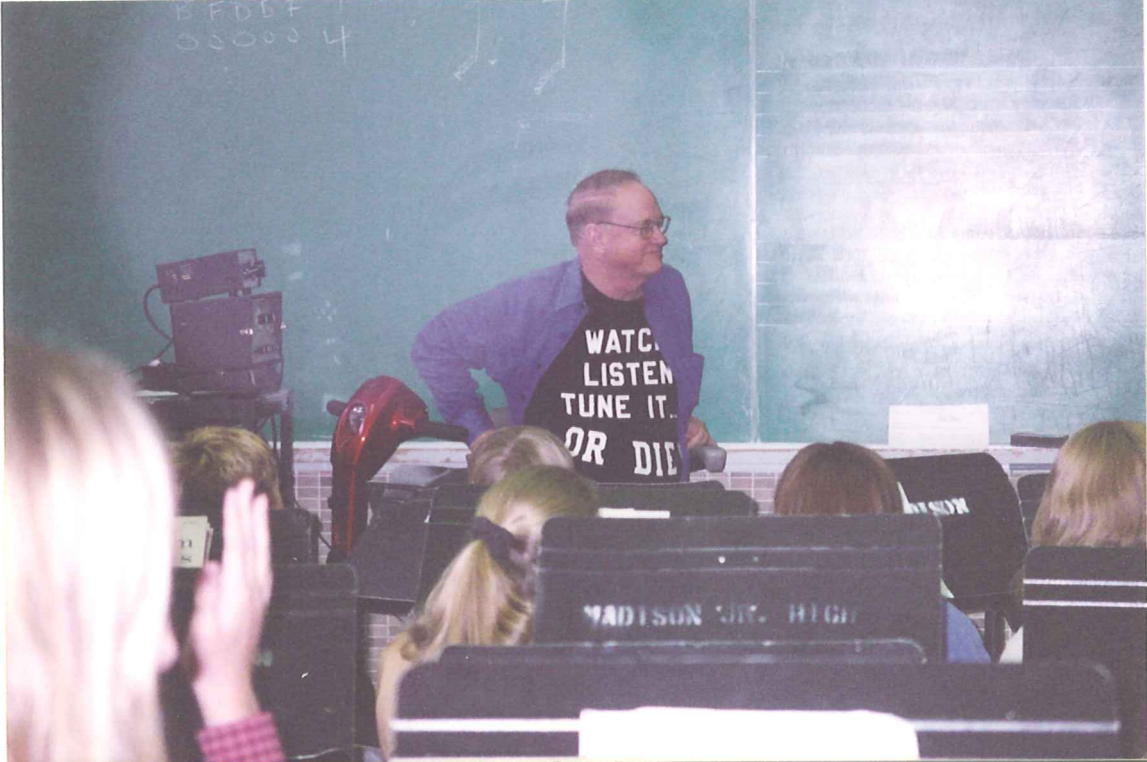
~ Jenny Davenport

Have a great summer! You're the best
music teacher ever! Ben (Bryant)

Mr. Hill,
You have been a great role
model for me. I will miss
you and will never forget
you! I thank you for everything
you've taught me. I will never
forget those lessons because
they will be in my heart
forever!
God Bless,
Amanda Kennedy

Mr. Hill,
I can't tell you how
much I enjoyed band.
I like theater and singing
so much I
would not have
studied or enjoyed
music even half
as much as I do now.
Thank you for the great
years and I hope
you enjoy your retirement.
Keep God in your
heart.
J. Kennell

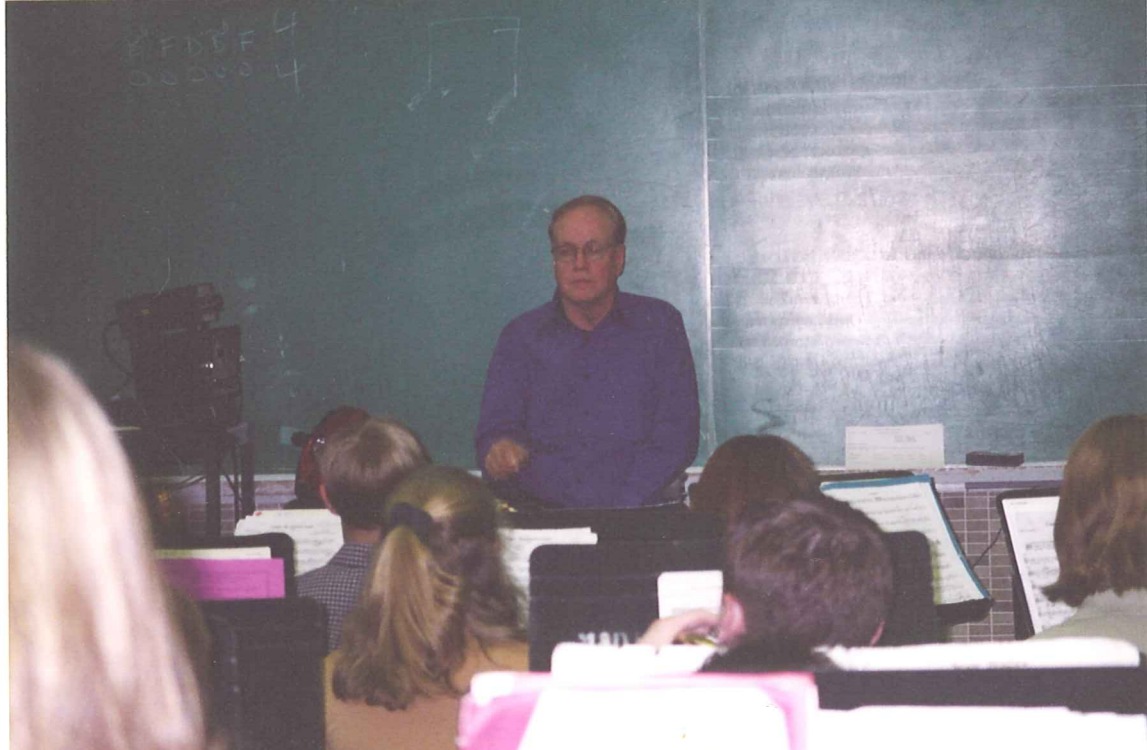




B F D E I
00000 4

WATCH
LISTEN
TUNE IT
OR DIE

MADISON JCT. HIGH





Mr. Hill-

I have really really enjoyed you being my teacher. I'm really going to miss you next year. I also really appreciate you working so hard to let me come into the regular class.

Your student,
Sarah 11)
Cegors

Mr Hill-

Thanks for so much. I can remember putting my horn together for the first time with you by my side! You gave me a love for music and the main reason that I have stayed with band is you. You may never know the impact you've made in thousands of lives. Thanks for the ride. You're truly a hero!

Thanks for everything Mr. Hill! I wouldn't be where I am without you! I'll miss you a lot!

-
Kasey Young

Mr. Hill,

Congratulations on your wonderful career! You have touched so many lives. I am so fortunate to have had you as my middle school band director for three years. You instilled in me a love for music which I will carry with me for the rest of my life. I was so prepared for the Cooper band because of you. Thank you for always being there for me. I appreciate it.

Love,
Cinnamon Hodges ☺

Sincerely,

Ally Hodge

I had an awesome year! Thank you for teaching me. I can't wait to learn more. I will miss ya!
Michelle Grayson

Mr. Hill - even though I just
started and I had a lot of
fun. You are the greatest!
♥ Haley Liburdy

You were
an incredible
teacher. Thank
you. Joe Detman

Mr. Hill,
Even though you have
only taught me for two
years, you have taught me
a lot and not just about
music! You have inspired
me to do my best in
everything. I will miss
you greatly!
Always, Tara Winland

Mr. Hill,
Thank you for being the greatest!
even though you weren't my teacher.
I'll always remember you as the
first band director to inspire me!
Thank again,
Always,
Abbi Pearson

Thank you for the greatest
two years of band. Take
this money and go have fun
at your favorite restaurant and
have a great retirement.
I'll miss
you!
Lashara

Mr. Hill,
Thanks for everything you did. For being so under-
standing with the whole illness + all. You were
an awesome teacher! ♥ -Amy Pickard

Hey Mr. Hill you will
always be the #1
teacher and I'll
miss you.
Scott Norris

Mr. Hill, you are the best
band director ever! I can't believe
you won't be my band director next
year. I will miss you.

Sincerely,

Ryan Husep

Mr. Hill I have enjoyed having you
for my band director. I will miss you.
I hope that you have a great
summer. Thank you very much.
I Love band!

Stormy Brannon
Stormy Brannon

Mr. Hill,
Hey, I have loved being in
band with you for the past
three years. You made band
fun for me and I'm sure
you made it fun for
others! I hope your
retirement is a lot of
fun and really relaxed.
Have a great summer
and enjoy your years
to come!

Love Always,
Ashley Campbell

Hey! This is Stephen the
percussionist! Have a great
time! I will miss you.
- Stephen Sothard -

Dear Mr. Hill,

I really enjoyed being in band,
and I always looked forward to
it during the day. You are a great
director. Thanks for everything you
did and thanks for helping me with
my solo. I am going to miss
having you next year. Have a
terrific summer.

♥ Always

Nicole Michels

2001-2002

5-24-02

Dear Mr. Hill,

Hey ol' man! I guess you finally realized that you can't keep up w/ us loudy kids anymore? I'd like to tell you that you were a great inspiration to my musical career? without you - I really don't think I would have pursued band into & through-out high-school. Ever since you taught me & helped me - I made all-city 7th & 8th grade. I also went on to area & region as a freshman. Now that I'm a junior I mad district and have held 1st chair all year. I guess that I'm just trying to say thank you for everything. You were not only a great director, but you were a great friend. I always look back on pictures & reminiss about the good times in middle school. Your excellence has helped me to consume knowled beyond band - life is what you taught through your music and conducting. Honestly, you remind me of Mr. Holand. And believe me, your conducting & friendship for new-comers at Madison will be a great loss. I'll never forget what you've done for me. I love you very much! Always,
Christen M. Cross (flute/piccolo)

It's been a great year,
and I wish you would stay longer.
I'm going to miss you very much.
Slade

Love a great summer and I will
never have a bad teacher like you.
Chloe

Mr. Hill,
I will miss you being
our band director this year. I had
a WONDERFUL Year! I hope
you have enjoyed it. I am planning
to continue in band through
Copper and enjoy it.
Always thinking
about you,
-- Sarah Robinson

Mr. Hill -

You were a wonderful band director
the three years I had you as a
"teacher." You are one reason I am
still in band. Next year I am going
to strive for honors band. You are
one teacher I will always remember,
I hope you have a wonderful retirement.

Your student,

Grayson Allred

Mr. Hill
Even tho I wasn't in
Band I still enjoyed
seeing you every day.
The people that
are coming in the
years ahead are really
going to miss a wonderful
teacher.
Garrett Mills

Mr. Hill's

Wow! I can't believe your finally retiring!
After all these years its quite an accomplishment.
I remember when I first decided to be in Band,
and we had to go up to Madison to try out on
instruments. And I had the choice of either playing
the flute or the clarinet. So I chose the Flute!
At first it was difficult and at times I got
discouraged, but I never gave up. And now I'm
a Junior going on a Senior in the Awsome Cooper Band.
I look back and see what I accomplished when I
thought I couldn't do it. But I owe that to you.
Thank-you for having the time + patience, and total
devotion to do what you've done all these years!
You truly are a director. And the Best at that!
Congratulations!!! may there be many more memories
to come!

Your former Flute,
Emery Beler



Dear Mr. Hill,

You have been an
inspiration to me. Your
politeness, kindness, encouragement,
and dedication to me and all of your other
students has shaped me into a better
person. I am strongly considering
becoming a music education major at
Texas Tech University. Thank you
for all of your work on me. I
hope you enjoy the retirement!

Love,

Joan Dadd

Mr. Hill

In the three years

I have been here

you have been the

best teacher

and I will miss this class

Anthony Dacanay

Dear Mr. Hill

It has been a great
year. Even though you
are retiring I will always
remember you.

Brady
Little

Mr. Hill!!!

24 May 2002

So... You've been at Madison for how
long?? A long time. I know that everyone will
miss you, and I'm so lucky to have had the
opportunity to be a part of Mr. Hill's Bison Band.
You've got more patience than anyone I know,
and a talent for helping others realize THEIR
talent. All of your extra time and effort that has
gone towards giving young musicians the outlet
they needed has been much appreciated for
many years, and I have lots of good memories
to reflect upon and many friends with which I
can share them. Most importantly, I believe you
introduced me to the gift of music, which I will
always carry with me. Thanks Mr. Joe Mac Hill.

Love,

Laci Ann Bullock (Madison Band 96-98)

Mr. Hill,

Thank you for teaching so many students and making a huge impact in the world around you. You have definitely changed my life. Thank you for affecting my life and giving me a love for music. I will always remember you.

Love,

Beth Fleumer 2004



Mr. Hill

Thank you so much for your hard work! I know we are not the easiest kids to work with and I know that you have had better ones; but I have really enjoyed being in your band that last three years. Band is what I look forward to the most everyday when I come to school. Thanks for being there! And I am really sorry for the students you have had that don't cooperate. I know that it will not be that great at Cooper without Mr. Gibson, but I'm glad that it was him who had to leave vs. you leaving sometime in the years I was at Madison. Thank You.

Krystal Alcalá

Mr. Hill,

I had a great 2 years with you. You always made band so much fun. I looked forward to it every day. 7th grade advanced band was the best. You always pushed us because you wanted us to become our best. I'll miss you so much. Band will never be the same without you. All of the upcoming 6th graders will have missed a great teacher. I hope you have fun being retired. And I'm sure that I'll see you a lot next year.

I'll miss you -

Brianna

Vanley

Mr. Hill

The last three years have been awesome. Thanks for teaching us. It's a shame you are retiring. I'm sure you will be successful at everything you do next.

Phillip Crowley



Dear Mr. Hill,

I can't believe you are retiring!!

You were and always will be the best band director that I have ever had in my entire life!! Ya know...I have a favorite memory of you?? I remember when I was in 7th and 8th grade, and when you

got angry, man, I mean you got angry. You had accidentally thrown your baton at the students!! You didn't mean too, but that was just too funny!! I'm sure going to miss seeing you every chance I get. I'm going to miss listening hear you tell me that I'm doing something wrong!! But most of all, I will miss you just all together!! You are wonderful Mr. Hill and don't you let anyone else tell you otherwise. I LOVE YA MR. HILL, AND I WILL MISS YOU!!

Love,

Kristel Alexander, clarinetist of the Awesome Cooper Band, and graduation student of the Madison Middle School Band

Dear Mr. Hill

my first year in band
was great ^{thanks to you}
please come ~~back~~ next year
and see how much we grew
but I'm not I wanted
you to know
I love you



Love
Jana Kelly

Mr. Hill

I will always remember how much fun
it was to be glad that next period was
band. While at Madison you taught me
how to have fun in band.

best wishes

Wes Luer

Mr Hill,

Just about the only memory of band that I have
is when Chris Hay and I were on stage before a concert
and you were speaking to the audience and Chris and I
opened a stick bag upside down and all the mallets
sprilled out onto the ground. I don't know if you remember
that, but I do, because it was the first humiliating
thing I ever did that was music related.

But putting all laughs aside, you really were my first
real middle school role model and you were a great one. I never
understood why there were kids that didn't like or why
you yelled so much, but as I got a little older I understood
what disrespect for elders was and I understood, I accepted
the penalty for that disrespect. I now can't stand disrespect
for authority and besides my parents, you were one of the most
important teachers I ever had. Thank you Mr. Hill.

I would have to say, though, that my most memorable
moment is when you went on your walk to Emmerus and it was during
I was standing on the sidewalk and I saw you coming
down the path and I'll never forget the Christ-filled
smile on your face. It was your smile that was so common
whenever you talked about God or about kids.

Thank you Mr Hill.

In Christ

Lane Greer

Mr Hill,

I hope you had fun
teaching me this year.
I had fun learning what
you taught is. I will
always remember the
fun times together in my
heart! I will miss you
very much!

Love,
Elizabeth
Orver M

Hey ~ Mr. Hill ~

I'm really going to miss you
lots!! You're the best, when
I wasn't sure I would be good
at the baritone, you gave me
confidence. I'll never
forget you for that.

Always
Kashon Holmes

Mr Hill. ~

Thank you so much for all 3 years of middle school. I loved every minute of it you gave me the love and passion for music. When I finish college and have my own band, I will think of you and your leadership & love of music.

You have been by far my favorite band director! I love you very much.

Q - Emily
Crawford

- and I will come back and visit.
- promise

Hey Mr. Hill -
I've enjoyed my 3 years here with you. When I came in the 6th grade I thought I might quit because I didn't play good, but you helped me and I got better.
~~I wanted to say thank you so much~~
Thank you so much

Dear Mr Hill,

You were such a wonderful band director. My 8th grade year was so challenging since I was new at school, but I always enjoyed band, & felt loved & accepted. Thank you for making my 8th grade year so much more enjoyable than I ever expected. God Bless you!

Elizabeth
Fulgim

Dear Mr. Hill

I have so much fun this year. I'm sad that you are retiring. I hope I like the new teacher. I will miss you very much. Hope to see you sometimes in the summer. We all love you, but I love you the most. BYE!

EEV

Sae

trr

Sincerely,

Bair Wallace

Mr. Hill,
I'm sorry you're retiring, because now the new six graders next year won't be able to meet you. Well, I just wanted to say that I hope you have a great summer!

Sincerely, 11
Dina Pribble

P.S. Keep on smiling. 11
Dina Pribble

Mr. Hill,

Hey! It's been fun this year in band, huh? Well you're a great band teacher and I couldn't have learned anything about music without you. I'm certainly going to miss you next year but I'll probably see you around town. Well, I have to go now but cya later!

*✱

Toni
Wright

P.S. *LUKE 11:9*

Mr. Hill,

I'm so sad that you are retiring! I'll always remember the wonderful times we had in band. Like that one time after school when Korey and I were chasing each other around the band hall and you caught us right as we walked out of the girls' bathroom. We were really sorry about that. Anyway, I'm really thankful that I was able to spend three years under your guidance. Middle school is a hard time of life and I'm very glad that you were there to guide me through it.

I'm sure that you have blessed many students throughout your career. I hope that you enjoy the rest of your retirement and will come back to visit every now and then. I'll always miss you.

Love,

Chaula Sickbert

Dear Mr. Hill,
I am going to miss you very much. Even though you are the only band director I have ever known, you are my favorite. I have had some good experiences in your classes. I has been very fun. I am really sorry my little brother didn't get to have you. I really wish he could. Again, I am going to miss you very much.

Love,

Sarah Galloway

Mr. Hill,

I'm sorry that you did not get to ~~be~~ direct Beginner Flutes as much as the other instruments. We will really miss you. I hope you have an enjoyable retirement. ~~God bless you~~. Thanks for teaching us another language - music.
- God bless you,

Cam Camelia
Paischal
(Flute)

Mr. Hill,
Hey, I have had a great 13 years with you and have loved every min. of it! Well I'm gonna miss you. Have a great summer.

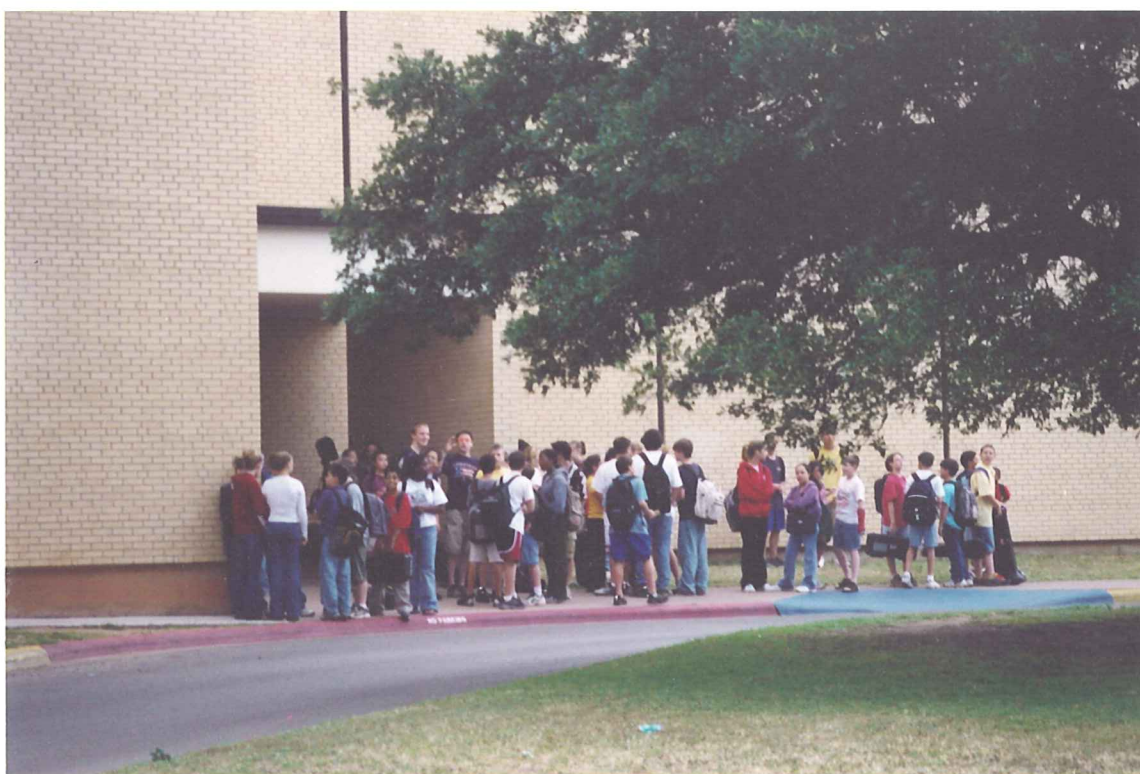
Cabbie
Piepin

Mr Hill,
you would never guess how much we all are going to miss you. Through our ways we may inspire us to listen and work hard you are a great role model. It has been an awesome year and we all will miss you. We love you and we will always be in our hearts and our prayers!

27 Nick

PHIL 4:13



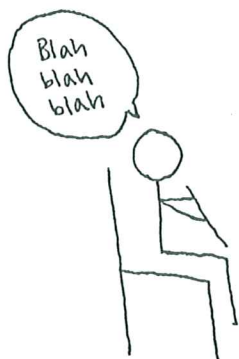


Dear Mr. Hill

I'm sorry I don't have a picture to go with this letter, but you know me: Miss Save-everything-to-the-last-possible-second. Thank you so much for being such a wonderful band director. Your instruction is why I have such a love for music today. Once again ~~the~~ thank you so much for being a great director and role-model. I will never forget you and the 3 years I spent at Madison Middle School in your band.

Love,

Cindy Calvert



Mr. Hill,

To remember when I came to Madison two years ago to try out all of the different instruments I've really liked playing the clarinet at Madison. I'll always remember the concerts, contests, and all of the other fun stuff we did in band. You've been an awesome band director, teacher, and person. I hope the last two years you've had at Madison have been as fun for you as they have for me. We'll all really miss your teaching and guidance next year. I hope you have many good memories about Madison and band.

Love always,

Megan

Hey Mr. Hill,

well, I'm sure that you've got your share of memories of me, most of which probably contain some degree of the percussion section and band-aids causing mischief and other various degrees of trouble. Remember the good times we had getting up in the attic/percussion place shifting around looking for random drum articles? Ah, those were really fun times. Thanks for being such a great director and encouraging me to continue in my music career. It's had a dramatic effect on my life, for the good, of course.

Korey Kennedy
Korey Kennedyx

Hey Mr. Hill!

I've had the greatest time ever being in the Madison band with you as my director. You have taught me everything I know to become a good saxophone player. I will miss you tremendously when you leave, but I know you will enjoy your time off. Thank you for being a wonderful band director.

Love,
Amelia Snow

Mr. Hill,

It has been so much fun being your student. I'm so glad that I got to have the chance of you being my director. I'm really going to miss you but I will think of you often.

In Him,
Kelli Watts

Mr. Hill,
 Thanks for teaching me
 about band! I have learned
 alot! Tell Mrs. Hill ~~thank~~ you
 too! Tell her I will miss her
 too. You are not only a teacher
 but a friend also.
 Well Good Luck!
 Janing
 Quinn

tell Mrs.
 Hill the
 same

Hey Mr Hill~

I have had an awesome
 3 years with you! I'm
 gonna miss ~~the~~ you and
 the rest of the group.
 Have an awesome
 retirement!
 always
 Kelly Dods



Mr. Hill,

Congratulations on your retirement. I imagine that you have
 had a life full of music, love, fun, and many memories.
 Thank you for believing in me and for giving me a chance to achieve
 excellence in my music. Before I moved here to Texas and to
 Madison, I was not pushed to do better by my band directors.
 I was not encouraged to reach higher and to apply myself even
 more. But you gave me a chance to excel, by placing me in
 advanced band. If you hadn't have given me a chance, I probably
 would not have achieved many of my musical goals. Thank you,
 Mr. Hill, for a wonderful year in middle school.

-~~st~~ GuineDthumero

hey! I've enjoyed being your
 band-aid. I also learned
 a lot the past 3 years! I
 will miss you so much... I
 now I have no reason to come
 back & visit. I ♥ u! take
 care & Goodbless!



-~~st~~ Janet
 Jackson
 You're the greatest!
 I ♥ u!!

Mr. Bucket!

I Love you! I had so
 much fun the three years
 I was here. I'm going
 to miss you next year.
 I can't believe I'm
 actually going to high
 school. I know Madison
 won't be the same without
 you. You were my
 most favorit teacher.

for Always

Alyssa
 Turkis

Mr. Hill,

Thanks for being a good teacher.
 You have taught me a lot about
 music and instruments. Sorry for being
 a pain sometimes, but thanks for
 all that you did for me in all 3
 years.

Chad Brown

Dear Mr. Hill,

You are a great
 teacher. I really appreciate you
 for helping me through the
 year. I was amazed by how
 much I achieved this year.
 Thank you so much.
 Love ya always!

ya!
 Ashley
 McNally

5-30-02

(asking you to be an organ donor for the next 10 years)

5-23-01

Mr. Hill,

Words really can't express our appreciation for all the things you have taught. Cameron - about music and about life.

He will always remember you and want to make you proud.

We hope to see you "around town" and in other musical settings.

One of Cameron's favorite places to eat is "Gazolis" - he "carbs loads" before sports. Please enjoy lunch there as our thank you for all your work this year.

Happy retirement!

Sgt Gary Smith

Mr. Hill -

Thank you for being kind and providing a caring atmosphere to a very apprehensive young man who came from a class of 16 to one of almost 30.

Cameron will always remember that kindness and his love of music continues because of a nurturing atmosphere.

He always looks forward to band and to learning something new.

Your influence will always be a part of life and we are grateful.

Gary & Sue Smith

Mr. Hill,

Thank you for accompanying me in my french horn solo. I had a good time!

Also, I played at my church last Sunday with the middle school group. The director said we sounded great and that we might get to sit in with the adult choir-orchestra.

Thanks again for helping me.

Cameron Smith

CAMERON SMITH

Dear Mr. Hill,

I have learned so much about band in the last two years you have taught me. I will greatly miss you next year. Your class has been so fun this year.

Man, we were good. I sure do hope that you and your wife have a happy retirement. Maybe you can come to some of our concerts next year, or even come and visit during class.

Cameron Smith

Dear Mr. Hill,

Wow! A band
legend of West Texas!

Congratulations on a
long, happy, successful
career!!! I'm proud to
have worked with you and
proud that my daughter
played trombone in your
mighty Bison band.

Happy Retirement!
Kathy Coker

I HAVEN'T BEEN THIS
IMPRESSED SINCE MY
BEST FRIEND IN THE
THIRD GRADE BLEW A
RAISIN OUT HIS NOSE.



Enjoy

Congratulations! Your Retirement
couldn't
happen to a nicer guy.
Thanks for the way
you mentored and
inspired Bethany.
More than a teacher.
Best Wishes
Don & Joanne
Pray

Hope your retirement
is as fulfilling and rewarding
as the career you made so successful.

Enjoy your happiness - it's so well deserved!

Thank you for the countless
hours you put in to teach our
girls! Enjoy your retirement.
David Luke Morris
Cullie Betay - Sarah

Mr. Hill,

Thank you for your dedication and inspiration this year. Our first
year band experience was wonderful! My daughter, Lashara, spoke of
you often. She felt comfortable and confident around you.

Thank you for working with her at All City TRYouts and
accompanying her Flute. She felt so much more relaxed when
she knew you were going to accompany her.

I think music is important. I'm glad ~~you~~ Lashara
has such a wonderful teacher as you. You are truly
an asset to Madison and AISD! Thank you.

Sincerely,
Ronda and LASHARA
Helscher

May 23, 2002

Dear Mr. Hill,

David & I wanted to take a minute to thank you for all you have done to influence our two girls to excel in their music. Beth so enjoys playing the oboe. It gives her an outlet to relax and also a challenge to master. Leah really feels good about playing the french horn. It has given her a confidence she didn't have before entering your music program. We are so glad you are able to enjoy some time off after 44 years of influencing kids. Thank you again for all you have done. God bless you.

Love,

Leah & David Keemster

The highest reward
for a person's toil
is not what
they get for it,
but what they
become by it.

John Ruskin

You made a real difference to
Bobby & Randy.
Bob

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATED
WORK TO SO MANY KIDS. I STILL
REMEMBER TRYING OUT FOR DRUMS
THAT FIRST TIME IN THE BAND HALL.
THANKS TO YOU, I'VE TURNED IT
INTO A PASSION I WILL ALWAYS
ENJOY. YOU'RE A WONDERFUL
TEACHER AND A GREAT MENTOR.
MAY GOD BLESS YOU, RANDY

Thank you for the special care you
gave Elizabeth her 8th grade year.
Being in your band class kept
her going. To her, Madison is
synonymous with Mr. Hill.
You are truly one of those
gifted individuals that impacted
not only attitudes, but lives.
Enjoy every minute of your
retirement!
Sincerely - Kathy Fulgim

Mr. Hill,

Thank you so much for being such
a wonderful band director. 8th gr. was
very different being new in town but
band was always so enjoyable & I felt
so accepted by everyone. Thank you
for everything. Best Wishes for the
future!
Elizabeth
Fulgim

Joe Mack-

All your hard work
and your effort,
the drive that has
brought you this far,
were more than just
making a living—
they've made you
the person you are.

Congratulations

■ ■ ■

The Clark Family

Thank you for your dedication over
the years. Our sons gained a strong
foundation because of it. You will
be missed. Enjoy this much
deserved time to do what you
choose. Marilyn

I couldn't have
done it
without you!

Mr. Hill,
Thank you very much for everything
that you have taught us this year.
I really appreciate all the hard work
you have put in to help us do better.
I also appreciate your patience with
us we struggled sometimes on a piece
of music. I pray you will enjoy your
retirement with your wife, and that you
will go on to live many years in happiness.
May God Bless you Always,
Matt Gerdling

Mr. Hill:

Just wanted to thank you for your time you have spent with the middle school kids. We know that you have made a huge impact on our daughter and her ability to play. Your patience with the kids shows and at every concert we went to we were amazed at how far they had come.

We have to admit when Staci first started band we wondered if she would enjoy it and if it would last. We let her know from the very beginning that she would have to work harder than any other child there. We were not sure that her being hearing impaired would have any effect on her playing or not.

You did not treat her any differently than any other child there and encouraged them all to do the best they could. This was very important to her to not be different and not to stand out. You let her know from the beginning that she could do this as well as any other student. She is a confident player and strives to achieve her highest level. We believe without that encouragement and patience, Staci would not be the kind of player she is today.

We are so proud of her and the fact that she is a freshman in Honors band. In fact out of the 7 freshman students in Honors Band at Cooper there are 5 students that were from Madison. You give your students respect and expect them to do their best and we believe that this shows us all that they are still all working for you.

We hope that you enjoy your retirement! We know that the band at Madison will miss you and your leadership. Madison Band will not be the same without you. Thank you for being there to teach Staci and all the countless students to play!

Gordon & Pam Washington



Mr. Hill

Dear Mr. Hill,

Thank you for being the helpful and kindest band director. You had inspired me into playing music and help me through my school years at Madison. I still have this memory when I played my first high note in your class - high G. I thought that I won't be able to get that high because of my hearing problems. Thank you for inspiring me and bringing music to my life. I had found something that I always carry with me for the rest of my life. You will always be in my heart and God Bless you!

Always,
Staci Washington

BT

Thank you for working so diligently with our Deaf Education students— most recently Staci Washington and a few years ago, Sylvia Rios. These girls have excelled in their band skills at Cooper because of their experience they received at Madison. I'll always remember you for your patience and kindness extended toward all of your students. Kick back, relax and put on some Gershwin or Mozart and enjoy your retirement!

Sharon Arnold



Mr. Hill

Dear Mr. Hill,



Isn't it so remarkable how fast the years can past us by? I can easily think back to the day I decided to further my education by being in the band program at Madison. Well, the years passed, each fixing my life with triumphs and failures, good memories and the bad, and of

course, those times you kept my spirits high by a simple, "good job." I miss my younger days so much but if it were not for someone like you, so caring and dedicated, I would not be where I am now. Do you remember when I was in eighth grade and decided to attempt to play a class I solo for solo/ensemble? Do you remember how much time I spent practicing on that piece with your gracious help then ended up receiving a "2" at the contest? That was such a let down. Now that I think of it I'm actually glad it happened to me. I definitely say with confidence that failing at something builds your character, it teaches us that life has it's obstacles and we are meant to at least try. Mr. Hill, I cannot thank you anymore for your confidence you have had in me since before I started. You are truly a servant in my eyes! Thank you for leading by example helping me to be the person I am and want to be. I promise to go out into life and make the best of it. Please don't ever forget me. You will truly be missed.

Love always,
Kimberly Hitt

Mr. Hill

You've brought
more happiness than
you can imagine—
We appreciate
your kindness.

Thank You

Thanks for all the wonderful memories. You have been such a positive influence on all 3 of our children. Best wish John, Rachel, Kelli (Logan), Adam & Kim Hitt



Many thanks
for all you've done—
you're a teacher
I'll always remember.

Mr. Hill,

Thank you for being a wonderful teacher. I appreciate your patience with us as we learned. I feel honored to be in your class. I hope you enjoy your retirement. God Bless

Matt Hitt

Congratulations

Thank you so much for giving Matt such a great start in band. He has enjoyed this year so much! We will miss you. Enjoy your retirement!

Love,
The Hittings -
Mark, DeAnn, & Matt

May 30, 2001

Dear Mr. Hill,

I want you to know how much John and I appreciate all you have done for Jordan this year. Band has been an incredibly positive experience and we know that it was due to your leadership.

Jordan would come home quoting you often - always words of encouragement. With as many students as you have, we were so impressed that you would take the time to coach and convince her that she was doing well. Your words are gospel to these kids!

We look forward to working with you in the next couple of years. Please feel free to call on us when you need parent help.

Thanks again for a great year,

Jennifer Raney
Jennifer Raney

Congratulations

You have blessed the Johnson and Raney families for so many years! Thank you for instilling in our child a love for music and a talent that we could never have accomplished. You are a highlight in her life!!
John & Jennifer Raney

Brilliant!

Mr. Hill -
Thank you
for being such
a great teacher &
friend! I've
appreciated it
greatly!

Always,
Jordan
Raney

Mr. Hill ;

When Josh came to Madison (Junior High) for the first time and joined your band, he found a place to belong. He says that you treated them as adults and not children. Their goal was to please you and they developed great respect for you.

I hated for Jordan to start Middle School in the 6th grade. I always thought that even 7th was too early.

But she immediately found a home in your band and loved every minute, especially you.

The above will explain why you have meant so much to our family. We hate to let you go but we wish you all of the happiness in the world.

Ginny and Pete Johnson

(parents of Josh Johnson and grandparents of
Jordan Raney)

Mr. Hill

I wanted to send you a note of thanks for all that you did way back when. We all had a great deal of genuine pride as members of the Madison band. That was all due to you. We would of happily done anything you asked.

That is quite an achievement when dealing with 12-15 year olds.

Come see Wisconsin
vs. Josh Johnson

In the words of the great theologian, Forrest Gump,

"Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you are going to get." I was sure lucky to "get" you! Thanks for a great year!
Jordan Raney

Congratulations
on a stellar achieve

Thank
you!

Mr. Hill,

Thank you for being a great teacher! I hope you have an awesome summer!

I'll miss you tons!

Always Jordan Raney

Mr. Hill,

I hope you are aware of what a difference you have made in the lives of many young men and women over the years. Your encouragement of Clayton was definitely a factor in his desire to excel in band. We are so sorry that Austin won't have the opportunity to experience fully your gifts as a director and a beloved teacher/mentor. But we understand your decision and are praying God's richest blessings on you and Karla in the years ahead!

Dina + Larry

Dear Mr. Hill,

Hey thanks for being an awesome teacher. Even if it was only for one year.

See ya round

Austin

Smith



Thanking you
for all you've done -
and thanking God for you!

Larry & Dina Smith
Clayton & Austin

Dear Mr. Hill,

Hey! How's it going? Sounds like you are looking forward to the retired life! Well, you will be very missed by all of those whom you have touched, including me. I don't think I ever would have gotten so into band if it weren't for your words of encouragement and influence. You made band so much fun for everyone. You gave everyone a chance to excel and grow with your teaching. I still remember the smile that you had every time I did something good. That's what helped me through the hard times of learning, and the rewards are obvious. All-state was an incredible experience and you are the one that I thank for that. I could have never gotten so far without you. My brother will miss you as well. Hopefully they pick someone good to take your place, although I don't think someone like you is replaceable. I can think of very few people who have not been touched by you in some way. Well, I hope you enjoy retirement and all the fun times that it brings. Be careful in all that you do and I look forward to hearing about all the fun you're having with your time off. Thank you!



Clayton Smith

Mr. Hill -
Thanks for being
such a great director
and working on
me!
Daniel -
Missy
Missy

Hey you
Mrs. Hill I
will miss
you too!
Mr. Hill
Missy
Missy

An
teacher.

AMERICAN GREETINGS
...says it best®



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER
20% Post Consumer

Mr. Hill -
I really liked
having you as
a teacher. T

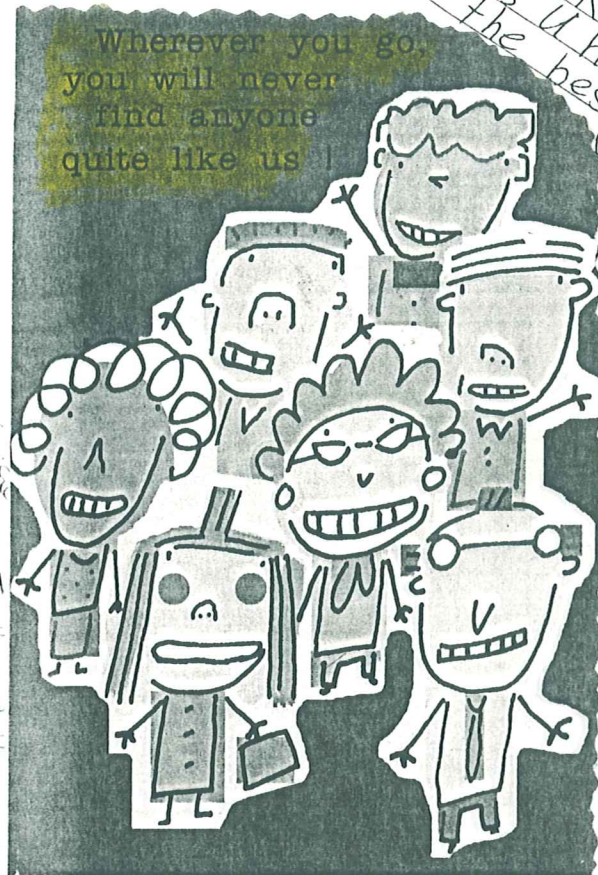
www.americangreetings.com
America Online Keyword: AG



USA	229	3077522
CANADA	299	AFWB1-1010W

AMERICAN GREETINGS
CLEVELAND, OH 44144

© AGC, Inc.
MADE IN U.S.A.

[illegible]



We love
you and
will miss
you
Mr. Hill.
God bless you
for all you have
taught us.
Amanda Kennedy

Not just a teacher,
a friend.

Someone loyal, whom we
can count on until the
end.

Not just a director, a
counselor.

A person kind, that we can
put our trust in.

Not just a leader, a role model.

Someone Christian, who we know
will lead us straight.

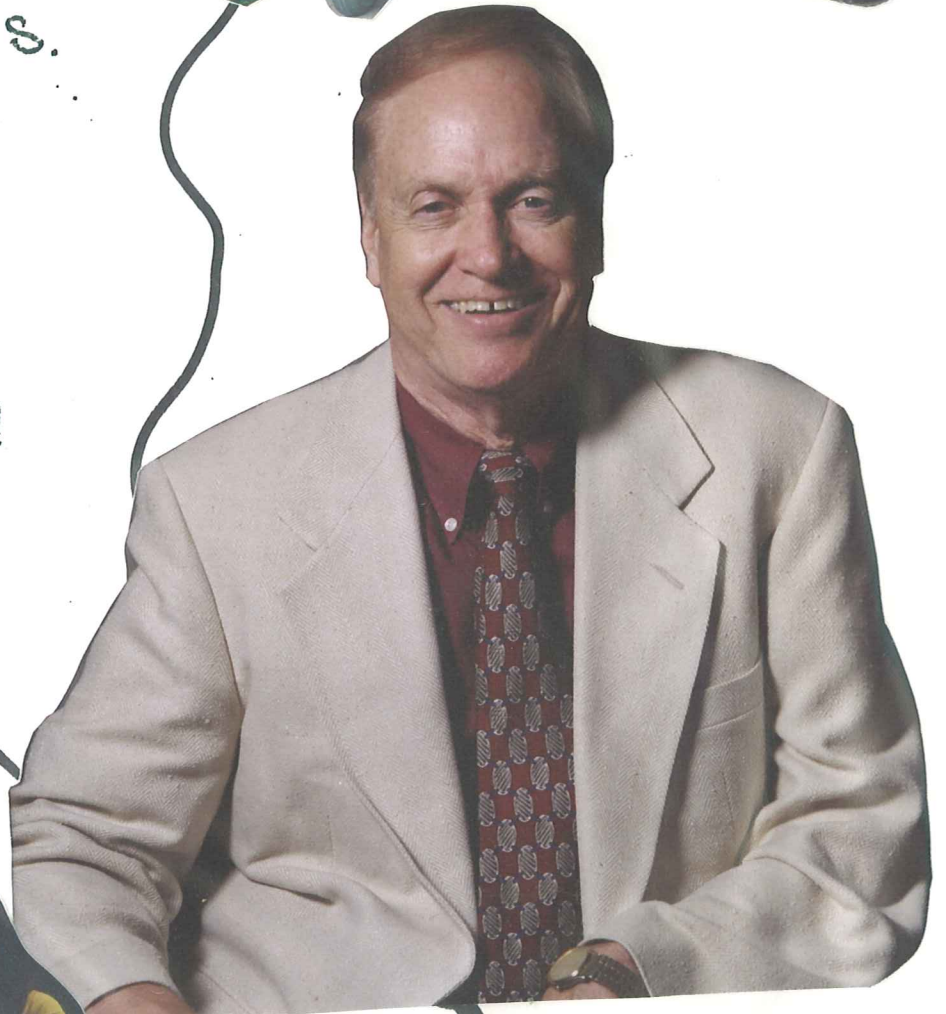
Not just a regular person,
A man, who has touched so
many lives and will be
missed greatly.

Mr. Hill....

Forever
in our
hearts.



We love You!!!



P.S.
Mr. Hill thanks
for showing us
how cool band is!