

Questions and Answers

1. How do I enroll in the Band and Guard programs?

ANSWER: All classes go through a registration process usually in February of each year. If students are interested in after school activities such as marching band, winter guard, indoor percussion, etc., there will be interesting meetings at the proper time to explain the schedule, fees, commitment level, and competition dates.

2. How many band classes does my child need to take?

ANSWER: All freshmen brass, woodwind, and percussion students take 2 semesters of band as a prerequisite. Students are only required to take 1 semester during their Sophomore, Junior, and Senior year. Of course, we want students to take as many levels of band as possible that will fit into their schedule. We understand it may not be possible to take 2 semesters each year during their entire high school career. All marching band members will be required to take the 2nd semester of band the year they participate in the marching band.

3. How do I volunteer?

ANSWER: All volunteers are required by the Henry County Public School District to complete a comprehensive background screening. Click on the link to get more information and the online application. <https://www.henry.k12.va.us/domain/1896>

4. What is the time commitment for band?

ANSWER: Each group has different levels of time commitment. The concert bands usually only have 1-2 after school practices/concerts per semester. The marching band, winter guard, and indoor percussion groups typically rehearse 3 days a week with competitions on Saturdays from local to regional venues, as well as national competitions from year to year. All groups will be presented with a season calendar before they start that particular group so the students and parents are aware of the commitment levels with time and costs.

5. Do I have to buy a uniform?

ANSWER: Parents should provide a summer uniform for Pride of the Riverside Marching Band students that consist of Khaki shorts (finger-tip length) and a belt, plain white socks, and low-top tennis shoes. Band of Distinction uniform will be provided to the marching band member except for marching shoes (Lippo's will come to measure), socks and gloves.

a. Do I have to wash/dry clean the uniform?

ANSWER: The Band Boosters will take care of all cleaning of uniforms.

6. What if my child can't make a rehearsal/practice or competition because of another commitment?

ANSWER: Calendars are issued early enough in each season to hopefully keep from conflicts. If students have a conflict, they should contact the directors EARLY in the process with their conflict. Please do not wait until the day before the conflict if you know ahead of time.

7. How much do I as a parent have to contribute?

ANSWER: This is totally up to each parent. We HIGHLY encourage you to be active with your student and our organization. We really want EVERYONE to help along the way to make our organization great!

8. What form of payment does the band take?

ANSWER: The Band Boosters will take cash, check and credit card.

9. Can parents go to competitions?

ANSWER: Parents are welcomed at all competitions to show the band support.

a. Can parents ride the bus to competitions?

ANSWER: Absolutely, however, you must make sure that your background check is complete before chaperoning/volunteering.

10. What happens in the spring semester when there is no marching band?

ANSWER: Concert Band/Symphonic Band- mostly all work is done in the school day. There are a couple of small camps, concert assessment, and concerts throughout the semester. Winter Guard and Indoor Percussion- after school groups that focus solely on their needs. Groups practice 2-3 times a week with competitions on the weekend.

11. What kind of concert band attire do students need?

ANSWER: All students will wear black and white concert attire. All men should wear black pants, a white shirt with a black bow tie. Ladies will wear a combination of black and white. Pants are fine as well as skirts. Short skirts, however, should not be worn on stage.

12. How do we find out if we owe any money?

ANSWER: Parents can email Mr. Harris, Band Director, or by emailing our Band Booster Treasurer. trharris@henry.k12.va.us or treasurer@bassettband.org

13. How do I find out about the different events going on with the band?

ANSWER: Website: www.bassettband.org; Facebook: facebook.com/BassettBandBoosters/; Twitter: @bassetthsband

14. Is my child eligible for All District, All-State or All-Area Band?

ANSWER: Members of the band program are eligible and are encouraged to audition for these ensembles. District Auditions are held in December. All-State auditions are held in late February. All Areas chair placements are done by the All-District seating, therefore we highly encourage students to try out for All-District Band.

15. Is Marching Band Camp required for my child?

ANSWER: Camp is required of all students in the band. Approximately four weeks of normal rehearsal time is condensed into each week, so attendance is required. Parent volunteers will be in attendance to help out with whatever needs may arise. One meal per day is provided by our state meal program for all students. Students are not allowed to leave the school for any reason during meal times. This is for the protection of all students.

16. Is my child allowed to stay after school in the band room?

ANSWER: The use of the band facilities before, after, and during school is a privilege. Students who abuse the facility will be disciplined accordingly. Any abuse or damage will be considered vandalism. No outside students are permitted in the band room except for business with the director. There will be no horseplay, e.g., throwing things in or around the band room. All percussion and guard equipment is off limits to anyone not specifically designated to use them.