

FENTON HIGH SCHOOL BANDS

To: Parents of the FHS Band Students & AGS 8th grade Band Students
From: Andrew Perkins, Director of Bands at Fenton High School and the FHS Band Boosters
Re: Marching Band Season 2018 & Informational Meetings

Dear Parents,

I hope this letter finds you well. As we enter 2018, plans for the 18-19 Marching Season are beginning to take shape. Although it seems early to be thinking about summer, the more time and information you have, the more outstanding the experience will be for our students.

To our 8th grade friends, as you begin to schedule your high school classes, your involvement in the Band program here at the high school begins as well. I will be bringing some high school band members over to AGS to give students an idea of what the high school band experience is like.

There will be Marching Band Orientation Meetings in the FHS Band Room on Monday, the 12th of February, and Tuesday, the 13th of February, both at 7:00pm. A great deal of information and discussion will be available at these meetings, *parents and students make every effort to attend one of them*, especially if you are still deciding about high school band for your student. Returning members & parents of the FHS Band Program are encouraged to attend these meetings as well.

The Marching Band is comprised of freshmen members of the Band Program, and committed upperclassmen. Because Marching Band is part of the required curriculum for freshmen, **Marching Band is Mandatory for Freshman involvement in the Band Program.** It is a great deal of fun as well as a bonding opportunity for all students. Incoming freshman will meet the older kids and make new friends before the first day of school. A great deal of hard work and effort go into producing a well rehearsed performing ensemble, but if you have seen our past performances, you can tell that it is its own reward.

Fenton High School Marching Band Season 2018 Initial Details:

- **Band Camp begins on Monday, July 30, and ends Saturday, Aug 4.** (Monday Morning – Saturday Noon). Camp will be held at Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU).
- **Please plan to arrive at the FHS CAFETERIA MONDAY MORNING July 30, at 8:00 AM to drop off your students.** We will be taking Fenton School Buses to SVSU. Students are to be picked-up by their parents following the 10:00 AM Saturday morning performance at SVSU.
- All students' **medications must be checked in and given to a chaperone** upon arrival at FHS. It must be labeled and in its original prescription bottle. This includes **all** medication. **BASIC OVER THE COUNTER MEDICATIONS (ibuprofen, etc.), WILL BE STOCKED AT CAMP AND ADMINISTERED ACCORDING TO PARENTAL PERMISSIONS GIVEN ON THE CAMP FORM.** Please contact me with any questions regarding distribution of medication.
- All students and staff will be staying ON CAMPUS in the SVSU dormitories. **Do Not Bring Unnecessary Valuables to camp.** Students will need very little money at camp. They may want to bring cash for the vending machines or for snacks. Additional details on what to bring to camp will be provided.
- **Proper apparel must be brought and worn at camp.** Gym shoes or cross-trainers are mandatory, no sandals, boots, flip-flops, heels on the field. Socks must be worn with your shoes, to prevent blisters. Shorts are a great idea, light pants are even better (sunburn), as well as white T-shirts, which will keep you cooler than a tank top or cutoff. A cap or hat is great to keep the sun off your face and chops. Other good items include a Water Bottle, Chap Stick, Sunscreen, Sunglasses, and Swimsuit. Ask an upperclassman at the meeting!

- If a band member becomes ill or injured during camp, his or her parents will be asked to take them home. While we will treat minor aches and pains (as well as medical emergencies), it is the responsibility of the parent to bring their child home if their condition becomes acute.
- **Instrument Repair:** PLEASE make sure that your students' instrument is in working condition at the end of the school year. There will NOT be an on-site instrument repair at camp. If your student's instrument is in need of repair during the week of camp, a parent will need to drive to SVSU and get it repaired or the student will need to use it to the best of his/her ability for the remainder of the week. Check with Mr. Perkins, Mrs. Hayes or Ms. Wojdula at the end of the school year to make sure your instrument is in its' best condition or to make arrangements for repair.
- The **end of camp Performance** will be on Saturday morning August 4 (10am). All friends and family are encouraged to attend. This will also be the point at which the students need to be picked up, so come on out and enjoy their first show! Reminder: **Students will need a pair of clean, Solid Black Shorts** to wear in the final performance. They will be given a 2018 Band T-shirt for the show (included in the camp costs). **Shoes worn at camp ARE acceptable for this performance only.**
- Consider when you will be able to help chaperone at camp (**Parents of all marching band students are *highly* encouraged to commit to one shift of chaperone duties** during the week of camp). We always can use more adult eyes and ears! This is also a great time to let your kids know that you support them and the band and to see how hard they work. We will have sign-up dates and times available online starting in May. Please contact Joy Scott (Band Camp Coordinator) at 810-449-2944 or joycottbb@gmail.com with questions.
- The total cost for the Marching Band Season is **\$395** (not including Marching Shoes) **for all members.** This fee covers almost all expenses for the entire school year, including all lodgings at camp, meals, activities, instructors, lanyards, flip folders, a camp T-shirt, all bus Transportation, and uniform cleaning/maintenance fees. Marching Shoes **will be fitted at camp** this year, but these particular shoes are not required.
- **Marching Band Registration forms are NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE at:**
www.fentonbands.weebly.com/forms (Forms will also be available in the FHS Band office, but to save on mailing costs, we're asking you to print and fill out the forms yourself.)
- The total payment (Checks are payable to the Fenton Band Boosters) should be mailed or delivered with the **THREE completed and signed forms** to FHS **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, May 18, 2018.** **There is also a required online form to complete.**

Visit: <https://goo.gl/forms/uzaVysqdlapj5iC92> to fill out the form.

Reminder - The FHS Marching Band rehearses **ZERO HOUR, 6:35am – 7:25am** at FHS. Rehearsals are Monday – Friday through October, and are mandatory, as marching band is an academic class for which the students receive credit. There will also be 2-3 practices in August. These rehearsal times/dates will be set in June and are crucial to our preparedness for the first football game.

I am looking forward to this year with great excitement and enthusiasm, and as always, feel free to contact me if you have concerns.

Best Regards,

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