



SUMMIT HIGH SCHOOL JAGUAR BAND

Dear Incoming Freshman,

We are very excited to have you in the Summit High School Band Program! The Summit Band is one of the premier organizations at Summit High School. Over the past several years, students such as you have helped build the reputation of this band as one of the elite band programs in the Area and the State. In addition to a great music education, students in band learn the following: time management, communication, creative and critical thinking, problem solving, responsibility, respect, leadership, teamwork, and pride. As one of the largest organizations on campus, the band is a great social and academic support group. Consequently, if there is anything a student needs, a fellow band member will always be close by to help at any point throughout the day. The information in this letter should help answer many questions. However, if there is the slightest question on any issue, please feel free to contact any of the high school band directors via email or telephone. We are looking forward to the addition of another great freshman class to our already talented and hard-working upperclassmen.

What activities are involved in the Summit Band program?

Jaguar Marching Band, Wind Symphony, Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Colorguard, Winterguard, Front Ensemble, Drumline, and Jazz Band.

What are the financial obligations for band?

Band Fees will be discussed in detail at our Incoming Freshman Parent Meeting via Zoom on **Tuesday, May 19th**. A link will be sent out once we get closer to this date that will allow you to attend the video meeting. Our stance on music education has always been, and will continue to be, that we do not want any student to be unable to participate due to financial issues. We understand that many families are navigating difficult financial circumstances due to the Corona virus pandemic. We will work with any student and parent in a discrete manner to help in any way possible.

Is it possible to do athletics and band?

YES! We have students in just about every athletic activity, club, honors organization, etc. at Summit. If you have been told by a counselor that you cannot do both, that is incorrect information. Please email Mr. Kanicki (christopherkanicki@misdmail.org) if you have a conflict with your schedule and I will work with your counselor to resolve the issue. We believe it is important to let students have an opportunity to experience all interests at the high school level, especially the first year. The students really won't know what the organizations are like at the high school until they try them.

Does doing band cause issues with academics?

NO! In fact, many of our band students are consistently in the top 10% of their class and have some of the highest GPA's on campus. We have had several Valedictorian and Salutatorian band students, as well as many, many Nation Honor Society members. While marching band does take up a fair amount of time, it is only for the first quarter of the year. After that, the student's schedules return to what they're accustomed to in middle school. If your student struggles with grades, know that the directors monitor their grades regularly and will help keep them on track to passing their classes. One of the best things band teaches our students is how to properly manage their time. As this pandemic has probably shown you, given more time, students are not necessarily more productive.

Are all students who sign up for band involved in the Jaguar Marching Band?

Yes. One of the first activities with which you will be involved is the marching band. The Jaguar Marching Band consists of **all** students enrolled in the band program regardless of the band class in which they are placed. There are three weeks of full band camp starting July 20th. Band camp is **mandatory** for all students who will be signing up for band at Summit. At this camp, we will learn the UIL competition show, along with all stand tunes. There is no cost for this camp.

My student plays a double reed instrument, are they still involved in marching band?

Yes. Our double reed players typically have three options; 1. play a mallet instrument in our Front Ensemble, 2. join the Colorguard program and be a Colorguard member, and 3. learn a marching instrument to play/march on the field. We typically encourage our students to do options 1 and 2, but we have had a few opt to do option 3. For students joining Front Ensemble, our percussion director, Dr. Hart, will work with them during summer band on how to play the instrument. No prior percussion experience is needed. The same is true for our Colorguard program. You do not need to have participated in dance or Colorguard previously to join. If opting to march a spot on the field, it requires the student to provide their own instrument and take lessons over the summer to learn the new instrument. Class schedules will be modified accordingly by Mr. Kanicki once your student has chosen which option to take. It is possible to play their primary instrument and be involved in Front Ensemble or Colorguard. If interested in Colorguard, please visit the link below.

<https://sites.google.com/misdmail.net/summitguard/home>

When can I check out a school owned instrument?

Due to the social distancing measures enacted due to Covid-19, we won't be able to do instrument check-out the way we have in the past. We are working with school officials on a plan to safely get each student the instrument that they need, while also ensuring any instrument we give out has been fully cleaned and is safe for student use. I will send out an email when this process has been decided.

The following concert instruments are available at Summit HS – Piccolo, Oboe, Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, Contra Bass Clarinet, Tenor Saxophone, Bari Saxophone, French Horn, Euphonium, Bass Trombone, Tuba, and Percussion Instruments.

Fees for school owned instruments will be due when students check out their marching uniform on August 1st (see preliminary marching camp schedule).

Is there a meeting coming up?

Yes. There is an important meeting for all incoming freshman band students and their parents on **Tuesday, May 19th** at 7:00pm on Zoom. More information will be sent out closer to the date.

Other questions?

The best source of information is our website, www.summitband.com, but please do not hesitate to call or email any of the directors with questions. See you all on **May 19th** at 7:00pm!

Sincerely,

Chris Kanicki
Director of Bands
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Mansfield ISD
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