

Jefferson Forest High School Band

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5 April 2017

Dear 2017 JF Marching Band Students & Parents,

PLEASE READ THIS LETTER IN ENTIRETY—THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

We are in the first stages of preparation for what I hope will be the best marching season in the history of the JFHS Band. We have exciting things planned for next year—the show (tentatively titled *Gershwin Builds America*, featuring the music of George & Ira Gershwin) is in development, & I believe it will be the best show we’ve ever put on the field! We will compete, as usual, throughout the Mid-Atlantic region—our travel plans include an overnight trip to (probably) VA Beach among the many competition trips on the calendar.

ALL FORMS MUST BE FILLED & TURNED IN (ALONG W/ 1ST FEE INSTALLMENT) BY MAY 16, 2017.

There are several documents attached to this letter—Med form, 1st draft of the Calendar, volunteer form, contact info form, & Rookie Parent Survival Guide. **It is essential that we have & maintain an accurate, up-to-date e-mail database of students and parents—it is by far the most effective way to disseminate information.** Please make sure all information is accurate & legible. The forms ask for duplicate information—please fill out everything on every form—they will be used for different things by different people.

It is very important that a parent of each marching band member attend a meeting on Monday, May 8 at 7:00 PM in the JFHS band room so that we can answer any questions you may have, disseminate information, & go over band fee payment options. We would like to collect the first installment of band fees & completed forms at that meeting if possible (the actual due date is **May 16**). The actual total cost of operating the marching band is around \$900 per student—the JF Band Boosters, Inc. subsidizes approximately 50% of that amount (which covers things like staffing, show design, additional transportation, & equipment). **Marching Band fees are \$450/student for 2017-18—we elected to keep fees the same as last year, though we will need to generate funds from some other revenue source(s), including a couple of planned “large scale” fundraising events with which we will need volunteer help. & the sale of Attraction Books.** The fee also helps to offset the costs for the overnight trip (likely VA Beach—includes transportation, lodging, & meals), a band t-shirt (which is part of the uniform, & property of the student), uniform & instrument use & maintenance, band camp expenses (including Salem DCI show), water for each performance, pizza at halftime of all home football games, & consumable marching band accessories. Band fees can be paid in 2 installments, with the 1st due by **May 16** (we will be set up to collect fees at the JF Spring Concert which is also that day) & the last due on **August 1** (the 2nd day of the 2nd week of full band camp). However, if you are able to pay the full \$450 by May 16, it would be greatly appreciated—much of the cost of operating marching band is incurred before August! For your convenience band fees may be paid online through PayPal, a secure online banking entity. PayPal accepts all major credit cards. Please note that PayPal will ask for a shipping address even if the item does not require shipping (such as band fees). This information is collected to insure that payments are applied to the appropriate student. A link is available from the band website (www.jeffersonforestband.org) under the “Financial” tab. Kroger Reward balances built up through mid-April will be applied to the May 16 installment (if you have enough to cover the entire fee or more than the initial 50% deposit, it will **all** be applied at that time). Any balance accrued from mid-April through mid-July will be applied to the Aug. 1 installment. If you aren’t familiar with the Kroger Rewards program as it relates to band fees, please contact Mr. Webb or any member of the JF Band Booster Executive Board. If you have any concerns regarding the band fee, please refer them directly to me (Mr. Webb).

Please note that the attached calendar is a 1st Draft—there will likely be some changes as we go along. **There will be one Saturday practice scheduled during Band Camp (Aug 5 OR 12—this will depend on when they schedule football program pictures—I will inform everyone as soon as I know).**

>>>>>>>NEXT PAGE>>>>>>>

www.jeffersonforestband.org

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Once school starts, we usually don't have practice on Wednesdays—there are a few exceptions—please refer to the attached calendar. We will not rehearse on any Wednesdays other than those indicated unless something happens that forces us to re-write our schedule. Please make an effort to schedule appointments on “off days” to minimize rehearsal absences. All rehearsals and performances are mandatory. Please see Mr. Webb if there are individual issues with specific dates. **Consistent rehearsal attendance is vital to our success!**

The emergency medical permission form is a blanket form that gives your child permission to participate in all band activities, including trips (see calendar), & for staff & chaperones to seek appropriate medical attention for your child if the need arises. No one will be permitted to participate in any band activity without a completed emergency medical form. This form needs to be returned by the first day of your band student's participation in marching band. **In addition to the form, please submit a photocopy of the front AND back of your insurance card, & have all forms turned in by May 16. Also, we will comply with changes in BCPS policy regarding distribution on medication (prescription AND over-the-counter)—more information on that will be distributed in the fall before the first competition trip.**

All participants in Marching Band are required to have a VHSL Physical Form completed by a physician and on file with JFHS before participating in any band-related activities. The VHSL Physical form is available in the main office at JFHS, as well as to download from the band website. Many pediatricians keep a supply of VHSL Physical forms on hand as well. A VHSL Physical form is valid for all extracurricular activities at JFHS from July 1 through June 30 of the following year, however it must be completed AFTER May 1 of the previous school year. A physical that was valid for marching band or athletic participation during the 2016-17 school year WILL NOT be valid for 2017-18 school year activities, even if it was done in April 2017. Please have all physicals completed and the forms turned in by the first day of the student's participation. We will not be able to allow participation without the completed VHSL Physical form.

One of the things that makes Marching Band such a special & worthwhile activity is the opportunity for parent involvement. We have a large operation, & we cannot begin to succeed without the help of many parent volunteers. On the attached volunteer form, you will find a list of opportunities to get involved & be a part of this great organization. We welcome your participation in any or all of these areas. The more people we have, the less work any individual has to do, & the more fun & fulfilling it becomes for everyone. Please consider volunteering your time & talents.

I am very excited about next year's band—I believe we are going to have a fantastic fall! Please let me know if you have any questions, or if I can help you with anything regarding your child's participation in the JF Band program.

Regards,



David Webb
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Due date for all forms & 1st fee installment is May 16!!!!

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