



Dear Junior High Band Student,

Over the next several weeks, junior high students will be enrolling for high school classes. I would like to take this opportunity to personally invite you to join us in the Fayetteville High School Band.

We are proud of the band program that we have in Fayetteville. Due to a great group of students, we have tripled the size of the band over the past twelve years and the FHS Band has competed and performed all over the nation. Over the past several years, the FHS Band has performed in Hollywood, California, Dallas, Texas, Phoenix, Arizona, Kansas City, Missouri, St. Louis, Missouri, and at the 2006 Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California. In 1998, the Bulldog Band became the first Arkansas band to march in the prestigious Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and returned for an encore performance in 2008. The band has also marched in the Philadelphia Thanksgiving Day Parade and recently performed a special concert at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Due to the high profile of the FHS Band, many more performances and trips are possible for the future. These are the types of performance opportunities that other band students only dream of. We are lucky to have such a great band program! Now is a wonderful time for you to join us in the high school band.

Ninth grade students who are interested in being part of this group should enroll in BAND I (course number 451000). Each student recommended for high school band will receive a letter in the summer which outlines all information needed. Participation in high school band does not eliminate other activities. With proper planning, students can take numerous classes over the next few years. Since high school students have more hours to work with during their junior and senior years, there is time to take all of those important courses (foreign language, art, AP classes, drama, etc.). We have a diverse group of students who are involved in a number of activities including drama, choir, AP classes, and all of the various sports. We also have several students who work. If you have any questions about possible conflicts, we have posted our rehearsal and performance schedule on our website ([www.fayettevilleband.com](http://www.fayettevilleband.com)) and I have included a copy with this letter. Those students who play fall sports will need to check this carefully to make sure they can commit to both. Attendance at rehearsals and performances is one of the most important parts of high school band.

The high school band rehearses during the regular school day with Tuesday night rehearsals during football season. We do begin our summer rehearsals two weeks before school starts (July 27<sup>th</sup> for the full band). These rehearsals are very important so students need to make plans now to attend! The specific dates are posted on our website and enclosed with this letter. During marching season, the competitive marching band will practice before school on "A" days. See the enclosed information for more details related to the daily practice schedule. Students are required to be at these rehearsals. Students who ride a bus will need to make alternate plans for transportation to school during the marching season. The early rehearsals and the Tuesday night practices end around the end of October (approximately 12 weeks out of the 36 weeks in the

school year). This year, we will be doing preparatory training days for all students who are planning to be part of our group. This will give all students a “head start” as we prepare for our spring training. We will also be meeting for four days in May as part of our “spring training.” Those dates are on the enclosed schedule and are very important. During this time, we will be assessing marching and playing skills for all students to determine assignments for the fall marching band and the concert bands that meet during the spring semester. We also have a parent meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the FHS Band Room.

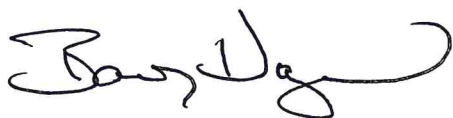
As you may know, members of the competition band will be traveling to St. Louis, MO to participate in the 2016 Bands of America Super Regional Marching Competition in October. Information about this trip is available on our band website. This is just an example of the opportunities that are available to members of the Fayetteville High School Band.

As a member of the FHS Band, students have the opportunity to build on a strong foundation. The years of practice cards and beginning band pay off as students can make great music and enjoy wonderful opportunities. We work hard but pride ourselves on teamwork, discipline, musicianship, and accomplishment. We also manage to have fun in the process. No other class can offer so much (music education, physical activity, and social interaction). Everyone wants to be a member of an organization where he/she has value and your participation plays a vital role in the success of our band.

More information can be found on our website. We have created a special link just for you. Click on “prospective members” and read what students and parents are saying about life in the FHS Band. Our handbook is also online if you need more specific information. Parents also have an opportunity to stay informed by being part of our Listserv. We are constantly sending out information about the band on the Listserv so it would be advantageous for you to be part of this list. To join, contact Tim Kring at [tkring@uark.edu](mailto:tkring@uark.edu). This contact information is also available on our website.

If we can be of assistance or answer any questions, please call us at 445-1185 or send an email to [barry.harper@fayar.net](mailto:barry.harper@fayar.net) or [brett.lawson@fayar.net](mailto:brett.lawson@fayar.net). We look forward to working with you next year in the Fayetteville High School Band. In the meantime, check us out at [www.fayettevilleband.com](http://www.fayettevilleband.com), on Twitter @fayarband, and on Facebook at fayettevillebands and fayettevillebandboosters.

Sincerely,



Barry Harper  
Band Director  
Fayetteville High School



Brett Lawson  
Assistant Band Director  
Fayetteville High School



## **Preparatory Training (for all students in the 2016-17 FHS Band)**

Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon.

Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon.

## **2016 Spring Training**

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday - May 10<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

## **2016 Summer Marching Rehearsal Dates**

- \* Tuesday, June 28<sup>th</sup> – Full Color Guard Rehearsal from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
-Weapon Sectional 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m, Full Guard 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- \* Tuesday, July 5<sup>th</sup> – Full Color Guard Rehearsal from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
-Weapon Sectional 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m, Full Guard 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- \* Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup> – Full Color Guard Rehearsal from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
-Weapon Sectional 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m, Full Guard 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- \* Monday – Friday, July 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> – Color Guard Design Camp  
-Full Guard 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- \* Wednesday – Friday, July 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> - Bands 1, 2, and 3 from 1:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m
- \* Monday – Friday, August 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> – Summer Marching Practice for Bands 4 and 5 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon and Bands 1, 2, and 3 from 1:30 – 8:30 p.m.
- \* Monday – Tuesday – August 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> – Summer Marching Practice for Bands 4 and 5 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon and Bands 1, 2, and 3 from 1:30 – 8:30 p.m.

## **Fall Performance Dates**

Friday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> – Home football game

Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> – Home football game

Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup> – Marching Contest

Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup> – Homecoming Parade

Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup> – Home football game (Homecoming)

Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup> – Marching Contest

Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup> – Home football game

Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> – Region marching contest.

Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup> – Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> – BOA Marching Contest in St. Louis, MO

Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> – Away football game (Springdale)

Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup> – Home football game (Senior Night).

Possible playoff games on November 11<sup>th</sup>, November 18<sup>th</sup>, November 25<sup>th</sup>, December 2<sup>nd</sup>

Count on these as possible performance dates.

## Signing up for the FHS Band

- \* In 2016-17, there will be 5 bands at FHS (ability based). The membership of each band will be selected after a try out to be held during the spring semester (after spring break).
- \* On the block scheduling, Bands 1, 2, and 3 will have band from 8:50 to 10:20 on “B” days and Bands 4 and 5 will have band from 8:50 to 10:20 on “A” days.
- \* Bands 1, 2, and 3 will be our competitive marching band. They will be the students marching at the Bands of America marching contests (next year, we are doing 3 days in St. Louis for the BOA show). Bands 4 and 5 will march and will combine with bands 1, 2, and 3 for football games, the pre-game show, parades, pep rallies, etc. but they will not travel to BOA. They will mainly be working on fundamental instruction (music and marching). Most of our younger students will be in bands 4 and 5 (but not all).
- \* Since 1, 2, and 3 are going to BOA, it is going to be impossible for them to be successful if they only meet every other day. So, we are going to do something similar to all of the FHS athletic groups.
- \* During marching season, 1, 2, and 3 will meet on “B” days during their regular class time but also during zero hour on “A” days. This will allow us to practice every day and is the only way we can continue to be successful. Bands 1, 2, and 3 will only be practicing zero hour during marching season (which will end at the end of October).
- \* We will still meet all 5 bands on Tuesday nights from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
- \* When students pick their classes, they will have to indicate whether they want any of them to be zero hour. If a student wants to take zero hour classes, they will only be able to do one (not two zero hour classes) during the first semester. My recommendation is that students **NOT** take a zero hour class in the fall if they are in bands 1, 2, or 3. If they do, they will be late getting to the field every day. It will make their life easier to not have a zero hour class in the fall. **As always, upcoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders will sign up for Band I, 10<sup>th</sup> graders will sign up for Band II, 11<sup>th</sup> graders will sign up for Band III, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders will be in Band IV (Bands I, II, III, and IV only refer to the grade, not which band a student is in).**
- \* There may be some conflicts with certain classes but most of them relate to 9<sup>th</sup> grade athletics. **Before you get excited about a possible conflict, we need to have the band try outs and let the other groups have their try outs (cheerleading, tennis, etc.) to see if you really do have a conflict.** We will work on the conflict at that time.
- \* Returning band members (upper classmen) should check this mail out for a leadership application. Current sophomores and juniors should consider applying for a drum major, drill captain, or section leader position.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NEW FHS BAND

Will I be ready for the high school band?

\* Yes. Students will be placed in one of five concert bands based on skill level. The great thing about having five bands is that we can place students where they need to be to reach maximum potential. If a student is not ready for the competitive marching band (Bands 1, 2, and 3), we will work with them in bands 4 and 5 to get them ready for the future. All five bands participate in performances in the fall and concert contests in the spring.

When does the band practice?

\* Bands 1, 2, and 3 will make up the competitive marching band that competes at out of state contests (next year, this band is scheduled to spend 3 days in St. Louis competing at the Bands of America Super Regional). Bands 1, 2, and 3 will meet on "B" days during the regular school day (8:50 to 10:20). On "A" days, members of this group will meet before school during zero hour (7:15 to 8:45). This will allow the competitive group to meet each day (sports groups, dance team, band, etc. are all having to do this in order to meet every day). All five bands will meet on Tuesday nights from 6:30 to 8:30 during football season.

\* Bands 4 and 5 will meet during the regular class time on "A" days (8:50 to 10:20) and will concentrate on more fundamental instruction with both playing and marching. Bands 4 and 5 will combine with Bands 1, 2, and 3 to make up the pre-game marching band. **All five bands will play together at football games, parades, pep rallies, etc.** Bands 4 and 5 will not be traveling to BOA or out of state marching contests but will be included for special performances (recent special performances include the Macy's Parade in New York City, the Rose Parade in Pasadena, California, and a special parade performance at Disney World in Orlando, Florida).

How will the five bands be determined?

\* Students will audition in the spring for placement in one of the five concert bands. The audition music will be passed out at each school during the spring.

How will this work with the concert bands in the spring?

\* These groups will continue to meet at the same time (bands 1, 2, and 3 on B days, and bands 4 and 5 on "A" days) during the concert season. There will be no schedule changes necessary once marching season is over.

Can you be in band and still participate on dance team, cheerleading, or sports?

\* Some of the sports and activities are possible with band while others may have a schedule conflict. Before we get excited about this, we need to have the band try outs and let the other groups have their try outs to see if we really have a conflict. Once we know, we will work on the conflict at that time to see if there is a solution.

**Below is the Fall 2016 schedule for a typical two week A/B rotation for band students.**

*Bands 1-3 will meet everyday and will have Tuesday night rehearsals from 6:30-8:30, as well as football games on selected Friday nights.*

*Bands 4-5 will only meet on A days, but will also have Tuesday night rehearsals from 6:30-8:30, as well as football games on selected Friday nights.*

**Week 1**

	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Zero</b> 7:15-8:45	Bands 1-3		Bands 1-3		Bands 1-3
<b>1 (A) or 5 (B)</b> 8:50-10:20	Bands 4-5	Bands 1-3	Bands 4-5	Bands 1-3	Bands 4-5
<b>2 (A) or 6 (B)</b> 10:25-12:30					
<b>3 (A) or 7 (B)</b> 12:35-2:05					
<b>4 (A) or 8 (B)</b> 2:10-3:40					

Tuesday Night Rehearsal  
6:30-8:30  
Bands 1-5

Football Game  
Bands 1-5

**Week 2**

	<b>B</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>Zero</b> 7:15-8:45		Bands 1-3		Bands 1-3	
<b>1 (A) or 5 (B)</b> 8:50-10:20	Bands 1-3	Bands 4-5	Bands 1-3	Bands 4-5	Bands 1-3
<b>2 (A) or 6 (B)</b> 10:25-12:30					
<b>3 (A) or 7 (B)</b> 12:35-2:05					
<b>4 (A) or 8 (B)</b> 2:10-3:40					

Tuesday Night Rehearsal  
6:30-8:30  
Bands 1-5

Football Game  
Bands 1-5