

**Why YOU should consider joining the FHS Band?** High school is unlike anything you have done before. Current band members can tell you that there is not anything quite like arriving at FHS and already knowing 139 other students through band. This activity can greatly enhance your high school career, provide you with unforgettable experiences, and introduce you to a diverse and talented group of individuals. To put it very simply, it is an amazing experience!

**THE FACTS ~ BAND STUDENTS HAVE:**

- ✓ **Higher test scores**
- ✓ **Greater college acceptance rates**
- ✓ **Enhanced teamwork skills**
- ✓ **An instant group and friendships**
- ✓ **A means of self-expression**
- ✓ **MORE FUN IN SCHOOL!**



**WHAT THE BAND YEAR LOOKS LIKE IN NUMBERS:**

-  **Weeks of Band Camp** (two weeks home/one away)
-  **Football Games** (at Fairfax High School)
-  **Competitions**
-  **Concerts** (at Fairfax High School)
-  **Parades** (Memorial Day, Independence Day, Homecoming, and Halloween)
-  **Individual Performances** (Solo Ensemble Festival and All-District Band auditions)
-  **Spring Band Trip** (Disney World, Atlanta, or New York, to name a few)
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**Frequently Asked Band Questions**

***How am I assigned to a high school band?***

Our Director of Bands goes to feeder middle schools to hear students play after March. This is an audition of sorts, and the Director will assign students to the high school group that will be the best fit for them and the band. All students need to audition for the Director so that they can be placed in the most appropriate ensemble. Your middle school Director of Bands will tell you when the auditions will be and will pass out your music, so be on the lookout for that information. For current FHS students, the Director will hold auditions/playing tests throughout the year and make a placement decision for the following year based on student performance and work habits.

***Marching Band seems to take up a lot of time. How can I keep up my grades?***

Band students are typically very strong academically, and generally know how to budget their time well. Participation in marching band forces students to use their time wisely and helps teach them efficient study skills. In addition, freshmen have a support network of upperclassmen and other freshmen, who provide tips for successfully integrating High School while participating in Marching Band.

***What are Band Boosters?***

If you are a parent with a student in the band, then **YOU** are a Band Booster. The Band Boosters are an organization of parents whose job is to help the Director of Bands so that he can teach and lead our students. The Band Boosters meet once a month during the school year and need all the volunteers and parental input they can get. If you have gifts, talents, interest, or energy to devote, we could use you! Questions? E-mail: fhsbandspresident@gmail.com



**FAIRFAX HIGH SCHOOL  
BAND PROGRAM**

**An Eight Year Honor Band  
2009-2016**

Director: Mr. Patric Buchroeder  
[pwbuchroeder@fcps.edu](mailto:pwbuchroeder@fcps.edu)

**Fairfax HS Bands**  
3501 Rebel Run | Fairfax, VA 22030  
703-219-2235 | [fhsbands.org](http://fhsbands.org)

## MARCHING REBELS

The **Fairfax Marching Rebels** are the most visible component of the FHS Bands. Members of this ensemble perform at all home football games, and compete actively at regional marching competitions throughout the season. The Marching Rebels also perform at several community events and parades throughout the school year. The season runs from early August to early November. An information meeting for students and parents is held in May. Mandatory Band Camp begins in early August.

All members of advanced bands (Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band) are required by the Fairfax County school system to participate in the Marching Rebels, except in special circumstances, or if participating in a FHS fall sport. Concert Band members are also encouraged to join the Marching Rebels! Almost all of our students march, and although it is a lot of work, we also think it's a LOT of fun!

Wind players typically play the same instrument in marching band as they do in concert band. Most outdoor instruments are provided by the school. Percussionists play on marching drums (the battery) or play mallet instruments on the sidelines (the pit). Percussion assignments are made during our drumline clinics in June.

## CONCERT BANDS

*FHS has three concert bands; Concert Band, Symphonic Band, and Wind Ensemble, along with a Percussion Ensemble. Each band is assigned a class period. They perform in four concerts at FHS and the VBODA state rating assessment.*

### WIND ENSEMBLE

**Wind Ensemble** represents the premiere ensemble in the FHS band program and performs the most challenging repertoire available to modern concert bands and percussion ensembles. Members of Wind Ensemble are expected to take private lessons, audition for All-District Band, perform at Solo and Ensemble Festival, and participate in the spring trip. Members of this ensemble are also members of the Marching Rebels unless they are playing a fall sport. **(Audition Required)**

### SYMPHONIC BAND

**Symphonic Band** is FHS's second advanced ensemble and also performs a challenging repertoire. Members of Symphonic Band are encouraged to take private lessons, audition for All-District Band, perform at Solo and Ensemble Festival, and participate in the spring trip. Members of this ensemble are also members of the Marching Rebels unless they play a fall sport. **(Audition Required)**

### CONCERT BAND

**Concert Band** provides the opportunity to support individual progress and extended education in common rhythms and basic instrumental technique, with the intention of preparing students for membership in Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, or Percussion Ensemble. Concert Band members are strongly encouraged to take private lessons and are welcome to participate in the spring trip. Although Concert Band members are highly encouraged to join the Marching Rebels, participation in marching band is not mandatory for this ensemble.

### PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

**Percussion Ensemble** is a class for all percussionists at Fairfax High School. After a brief audition to start the year, students are placed in one of the three concert bands. Each day, listening, rudiments, and rhythmic dictation are assigned to enhance overall musical ability. Students are also encouraged to practice at home on the practice pad provided.

## OTHER ENSEMBLES

### FAIRFAX DRUMLINE

*Our drumline is a specialized instrumental ensemble which functions as a part of the Marching Rebels.*

**Winter Drumline** is an extra-curricular ensemble which meets from mid-November until early April. Any student who participates in FHS Band, Orchestra or Chorus is eligible to audition for Winter Drumline. Performances combine intricate and skilled musical passages with high-intensity drill formations. As a competitive unit, the drumline competes throughout the mid-Atlantic region during the winter months. **(Audition required)**

### FAIRFAX GUARD

Our guard is an integral part of our FHS Band Program. They greatly enhance the overall visual effect of our marching show, with choreographed dance, flag, sabre and rifle routines. ANY FHS Student, male and female, is welcome to tryout for a spot in our Fairfax Guard, and no prior experience is necessary! Students with previous dance experience are highly encouraged to consider joining our Fairfax Guard.

**Winter Guard** is an extracurricular group which meets from mid-November until early April. ANY FHS Student is welcome to tryout for a spot. Performances combine costumes, dance, and choreographed flag, sabre and rifle routines set to movement across the gym floor (known as drill). As a competitive unit, the guard competes throughout the mid-Atlantic region during the winter months. Please come join us!

### FAIRFAX JAZZ

**Fairfax Jazz** is an after-school 1-credit academic class and ensemble open to members of FHS Band, Chorus, and Orchestra. The advanced ensemble, "*Big Band*," rehearses once a week from mid-November to mid-May. Our jazz ensemble plays repertoire drawn from a variety of musical genres, including bop, swing, latin, and funk. Fairfax Jazz travels to regional competitions during the spring, performs on the department's spring trip, and in the local community. Parents of the Jazz Ensemble students assist by transporting the band and their gear to competitions and other performances. A beginning ensemble, "*Jazz 2*," also practices weekly from mid-November to mid-May and performs in the spring showcase and other concerts late in the year. **(Audition Required)**

# FAIRFAX BAND