

2008 FCHS MARCHING JAGUARS

[HTTP://WWW.JAGUARBAND.ORG/](http://www.jaguarband.org/)

Welcome To All New And Returning Members Of The Falls Church High School Band!

John Davenport and the FCHS Band Aides parents are looking forward to seeing and working with you as we begin another successful season. The following key points are provided so that you can better familiarize yourself with the Band program (dates, times, policies, etc.) and the overall structure of the parent support group, the FCHS Band Aides.

- **Marching Band Clinic** (August 4– 14, 2008) – This clinic is not only a requirement, it is also a key element for developing a strong band program because it helps to strengthen individual playing skills and coordination. Freshmen and new students receive a valuable head start on the school year by getting to know Band upperclassmen who can help them adapt to the change from middle to high school. They can also use the clinic as an opportunity to become acclimated to coming to a new school. If you have a conflict with the Band Clinic dates, please notify John immediately.

Marching Band Clinic will be held from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm each day from August 4th - 14th, **except** for August 13th. On the 13th at 5:00 pm, the new Marching Jags will perform a sneak preview of their upcoming show for the parents. Afterwards, there will be a pizza dinner provided for the parents and students in the school cafeteria.

As a departure from the past, the Marching Band has been asked to perform during “Jaguar Day” on August 14th. John will give us more information as the day approaches, but this should not be a problem since it will take place on the last day of clinic.

- **Rehearsals** - Parents are welcome to come and watch practice at any time during clinic and throughout the season. John has open rehearsals so that family and friends can see and appreciate how hard the band students work to produce a precision performance.
- **Uniforms, Concert Attire and Other Accessories**- We will be fitting students for their marching uniforms and concert attire during the first week of the clinic on Tuesday (8/5), Wednesday (8/6) and Thursday (8/7). If you can spare the time to help with the fittings, it is a great opportunity to meet the students and some of the other parents.

Measuring and ordering for marching shoes will take place during Marching Band Clinic. A new pair of marching shoes will be about \$31.00. A used pair *MAY* be available (depending on size) for \$10.00. All students will be required to purchase **two** pairs of white gloves (\$3.00/pair), one pair for football games and one pair for competitions.

- **Fundraising** - Enclosed is an information sheet about the different fundraising activities that will take place this year. Some are intended to help raise money for the Band’s general fund and others are designed to help students raise funds that are held in reserve for them to be used towards select band-related activities.

- **Band Aides Meetings** - All parents are encouraged to attend the monthly Band Aides meetings that are usually held on the first Tuesday evening at 7:00 pm of each month. Be the first to find out, and contribute towards, the activities that involve your Band student. These meetings are also an opportunity for you to help direct, and voice your opinion about, Band events that affect the organization.
- **Band Fees** - The Band fee for “full-year” band members is \$250 (\$225 if paid in full before June 30th). The fee for Color Guard members is \$200 (\$175 if paid in full by June 30th). We have included a “per student breakdown” of what it costs to run this program in order to give you a better understanding of how the collected fees are applied, as well as a greater understanding of why it is so very important for every member to actively participate in our fundraising opportunities. Please make checks payable to “FCHS Band Aides.” We don’t want ANY student to miss out on the great opportunities that Band can provide. If the fee should become an issue, please contact the band office immediately at (703) 207-4222 so that we can discuss necessary arrangements. **ALL FEES MUST BE PAID IN FULL BY AUGUST 4th, 2008 IN ORDER FOR THE STUDENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM!**

The information in this packet includes a few more things of which you should be aware. Please review these materials and do not hesitate to contact John (703-207-4222, john.davenport@fcps.edu) or any of the following Band Aide parents if you have any questions:

President, Suzanne Seitz - seitzconsulting@yahoo.com

Vice President of Ways and Means, Tanya Betsy - tanyabetsy@sprintpcs.com

Treasurer, Holly Williams – holly.chong-williams@uspto.gov

Secretary, Cecilia Healy – rhealy@cox.net

Communications Secretary, Shelly Blincoe – blinkies@cox.net

Thanks and we look forward to another great year!

Marching Band Overview

Things to remember for Band Clinic:

- Unless they have already been mailed in, the enclosed “**Emergency Care**” form, “**Field Trip Permission**” form, “**Communication and Volunteer**” form and “**Student/Parent Band Contract**” **must be completed and returned by the student’s first day of clinic in order for the student to be eligible to participate.**
- Be sure to **bring a bagged lunch each day**, as you are not permitted to leave until the end of the scheduled rehearsal day. Per FCPS policy, no one may leave the clinic for lunch.
- Bring a **very large container of water with your name on it!** We will be working outside in the mornings, and it is important to drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration.
- Wear **comfortable tennis shoes with socks** so that we may practice correct marching style—and also to help protect your feet from blisters and other foot problems. No flip-flops or sandals will be allowed on the marching field!
- **Instrument**
- Flip-Folder and Lyre (specific to your instrument) – call the Band Office for more information if necessary.
- Mouthpiece, extra reeds, valve oil, etc.
- Sun block/ Sunglasses/ Bug repellent / Hat
- Wear light, comfortable clothing
- Music (all music that has been sent out over the summer)
- Appropriate medications, as required.

Attendance:

- Attendance at band clinic, after-school rehearsals during the fall, and all marching band rehearsals and performances is mandatory. Marching band is a group activity, and every participant plays a vital role. We cannot function successfully if members are missing from the rehearsed formations. **It is absolutely ESSENTIAL that all marching band members with Fall Activity Conflicts communicate with Mr. Davenport in order to discuss a scheduling compromise!**
- Once you have arrived at school for the August Clinic, you may leave before the end of the day **only** for an absolute emergency for which you have obtained permission from your parent or guardian **and** the Band Director. **If communication is not made, the period of absence will be marked as “Unexcused” and may have an effect on the student’s level of participation.**
 - **Please** try to schedule medical, dental, and other appointments at times that **do not** conflict with the rehearsal schedule. Our preparation time is very limited and very important.

Rules and Regulations:

- All rules and regulations set forth by the “Fairfax County Public Schools Students Rights and Responsibilities Handbook” apply to this clinic. While attending this clinic, students must remain in the Music Department unless accompanied by an adult or chaperone. The Auditorium and Gym are off limits to all band students unless prior arrangements have been made through the director.
- Marching Band members will perform at every home football game, up to two away football games and will be involved with *approximately* four Saturday performances throughout the months of September and October.
- Once the new school year begins, the FULL Marching Band will practice on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:45–5:00 (leaving a brief period of time for students to “touch base” with their teachers) and on Wednesday evenings from 4:00–7:00pm (our only opportunity during the week to rehearse on the field).

A full calendar of all planned events will be provided for ease of scheduling. Information is also available on the FCHS band website at:

<http://www.jaguarband.org>

Note – we reserve the right to alter the schedule as necessary throughout the year as activities and dates may change. However, every attempt will be made through student-delivered paperwork, e-mail notices and website postings to make you aware of such necessary changes.

If any contact information should change throughout the course of the year, please make sure Mr. Davenport and the Band Aides are aware of these changes so you get the information necessary to support your Band student.

ALL Band members, please fill out the following Intent form and return it, along with your:

- “Emergency Care” form
- “Field Trip Permission” form
- “Communication and Volunteer” form
- “Student/Parent Band Contract”
- Your check (payable to “FCHS Band Aides”) to:

**FCHS Band Aides
Falls Church High School
7521 Jaguar Trail
Falls Church, VA 22042**

INTENT FORM

Name _____ Instrument _____

(Students will play the same instrument in Marching Band that they play in Symphonic or Concert Band, except for double reed instruments and extreme circumstances, in which cases alternate instruments will be offered/provided).

Home Phone _____ T Shirt Size _____

Do you play a Fall sport? Yes or No If yes, which one? _____

I have read and understand the guidelines set forth in this form. I realize that being in the FCCHS Marching Band means that I am expected to attend all events related to the Marching Band. I am ready to commit to the Falls Church High School Jaguar Marching Band.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

FIELD TRIPS

The Marching Band will travel to some away games, competitions, Luther Jackson MS, and local elementary schools during the Fall. Transportation for these events will be by school bus or commercial carrier. On September 6, Tag Day, transportation will be provided by the Band Aides. Parents will fill out insurance forms and drive students in their private vehicles. All of this information is covered under the "Field Trip Permission" form.

STUDENT AGREEMENT

While participating in band field trips, I will accept my responsibility for maintaining good conduct and appearance, and I will follow directions at all times. I will make arrangements to make up all school work missed.

(Date)

(Student's Signature)

PARENT PERMISSION

I give permission for my child to participate in all marching band related field trips. I understand that the school will provide supervision for the trips.

(Date)

(Parent's or Guardian's Signature)