

2009 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 17th as a “Rookie Review” from 9-5pm; August 18th (for EVERY-ONE) – 28th, 2009; PLUS a formal photo day on Monday, 8/31 (call time 3:15 for uniforms) and 6-9pm on Tuesday and Wednesday (9/1 & 2) – 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.

The Marching Band Clinic will be held from 9:00am to 5:00pm each day from August 17th – September 3rd (see special calendar). On August 28th at 6:00 pm, the 2009 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. I have a “photo shoot” for the band on Monday, August 31st (call time 3:15), and there will be a 6-9pm rehearsal on September 1st and 2nd. Wednesday, 9/2 is “Jaguar Day”, and we have been asked to perform again. We will meet at 4:15 to dress out, perform at 5:00 for the event, change back into our practice gear and rehearse on the main field from 6-9:00pm.

- **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. Measuring and ordering for marching shoes will take place during the Marching Band Clinic. A new pair of marching shoes will be \$31.00. A used pair *MAY* be available (depending on size) for \$10.00. Two pairs of gloves will be provided for each student at no cost and replacement gloves can be purchased for \$3 a pair.
- **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 will usually held on the last Wednesday evening at 7:00pm of each month (please check the calendar on the Website (www.JaguarBand.org) to see if a date has been moved due to a conflict). 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 by July 1st). Each year we are asked “how much it ‘really’ costs for each band student?” The answer is that only a portion is covered by the student fees each student is expected to pay (\$250), but most is covered by fundraising that the band does throughout the year. We estimate that it costs over \$550 for each student, but families are asked to cover only \$250 in the form of fees. This is why it is so critical to support the fundraising efforts of the band since the annual band budget is over \$50,000 to run successfully. 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 18th, 2009 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, Holly Williams – holly.chong-williams@uspto.gov

Treasurer, Michael Cummings – cummingsMA@aol.com

Secretary, Carolyn Slocum – slocumfam@aol.com

Communications Secretary, Chrysa Cullather – Cullather@gmail.com

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, “**Student/Parent Band Contract**” and “**Intent Form**” **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. These can be purchased at any music store (Foxes, Music & Arts). Don’t wait to the last minute or they will be out of stock and you’ll be out of luck!!!! Remember...EVERY marching band in the area is starting on the same day as us, so supplies are limited!
- 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 during the season.**
 - **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* five Saturday performances/clinics 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**

**REMEMBER - YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE
TO PARTICIPATE AT CAMP IF THESE
FORMS ARE MISSING OR INCOMPLETE**

INTENT FORM

Name _____ Marching 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 12, 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)