

Fuquay-Varina High School Band and Color Guard

Mr. Matt Edwards, Instructor

To all rising freshmen and their parents,

Very soon you will be asked to think about what courses they will be taking next year. No matter what you are looking for in your time at FVHS, the Fuquay-Varina Band and Color Guard will guarantee a positive transition and will be an awesome experience in your high school career. Performing in a musical ensemble develops teamwork, emotional expression, critical thinking, listening and decision-making. No other course you can take develops all of these intellectual and emotional skills while experiencing the fun, excitement and creativity of live group performance.

We asked students and parents involved in this program to share their experiences...

Amber Sagester – “The best thing about band and color guard, especially for a freshman, is that they start the first day of school with at least 60 new friends.....many of these are upperclassmen!”

DeAnn Park – “When Ben was a freshman in the marching band, little did I realize there were all the jobs that come with the title ‘band parent’. From sewing on buttons to chaperoning to packing busses or equipment trucks, one builds great friendships with other parents. Also, you get to know your child’s band friends. I quote a band mom whose child went through the program 8 years ago, ‘It’s a lot of hard work, but the friendships are great. I miss it all!’ “

Fonda Phillips (current senior parent) – “An AWESOME experience! A wonderful chance to interact with our own child in his school life. I think it gives us the chance to support our child as well as our school.”

Ben Park (2003-04 drum major) – “Joining the marching band is probably the best friendship building experience in a person’s entire high school career. Student’s work together for a common goal and the togetherness creates a family. Not only does someone make good friends in marching band, but it is also a lot of fun. Band members work hard for the competitions, and then all that hard work pays back in trophies and teamwork.”

Karen Yoder – “***I have not been a part of any program that I feel so strongly about.*** The marching band and color guard program at the high school has been nothing but positive for my son as well as for me. This program has great leadership, parent involvement and a positive and safe environment for all. Parents work together to make sure each child (and I mean each child) is taken care of. We are a family. The students treat each other with respect (regardless of grade level) and the parents treat each and every child as their own. Fun...rehearsals, competitions and parades. When it is over everyone really misses it. The friendships between students and parents last from year to year.”

WHY TAKE BAND IN HIGH SCHOOL?

- **NO ONE sits on the bench in Band. EVERYONE IS ON THE TEAM.**
- More challenging music and ensemble playing
- Marching Band members make 60 new friends before school begins
- Fun with friends during performance trips
- Work with the best students on campus every day
- Be part of one of the best-known and respected groups on campus

••• FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FVHS BANDS •••

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DO I HAVE TO KNOW HOW TO MARCH TO BE IN MARCHING BAND?

NO. All new Marching Band and Color Guard members attend a 3-day “Spring Training” at the high school in April to learn the basic skills of marching while playing or spinning a flag. We also hold a mandatory Summer Band Camp in August for all Marching Band and Color Guard members. All students receive their marching training during these times.

IS HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND LIKE WHAT WE DO IN THE LOCAL CHRISTMAS PARADES?

The Marching Bengals perform in Christmas parades, too, but that’s just a part of what we do in Marching Band. Our Marching Band is many things: halftime show for football games and competitions, pep band for football games and a concert ensemble that perform a winter concert. People across North Carolina and other states have heard of Fuquay-Varina High School because they’ve seen our marching band at competitions.

WHAT IS BAND CAMP?

Band Camp is MANDATORY for ALL Marching Band and Color Guard members and will be held during the week of Sunday, July 29 to Sunday, August 5th. Band Camp is where the Marching Bengals learn the marching show, learn our group procedures, make friends and become a team.

Summer Band Camp is three days of rehearsal at FVHS followed by 4 days of rehearsal at Campbell University. A performance for parents on Sunday, August 5th concludes the Summer Band Camp. A complete camp schedule will be provided at the Marching Band Meeting on Thursday, April 26th.

Students are supervised by parent volunteers and Mr. Edwards and taught by Mr. Edwards and our marching band staff. We hold fun activities for the students each night at Campbell. Each band camp marks the beginning of great friendships that continue throughout their high school career. Band and Color Guard becomes an extended family because everyone works so closely together starting at Band Camp.

HOW LONG DOES MARCHING BAND LAST?

From August until November 1. We also perform for our varsity football team in November if they reach the playoffs.

WHAT IS BLOCK SCHEDULE?

* 4 classes per semester

* 90 minutes per class

* Each semester of class receives 1 unit of credit

Nearly all classes on a block schedule cover a full year's worth of material in one semester. However, because of the time and attention required to improve our individual and ensemble playing skills, our band classes meet year-round and students are expected to enroll for both semesters in a Band class.

I WAS IN PEP BAND/JAZZ BAND IN MIDDLE SCHOOL. DO YOU OFFER THESE?

Yes. Our Marching Band serves as the Pep Band for football games. We do not offer a basketball Pep Band. We organize a Jazz Ensemble as a volunteer after-school group in the spring semester.

I'VE BEEN IN ALL-COUNTY/ALL-DISTRICT/OTHER EXTRA-CURRICULAR STUFF. DO YOU DO THOSE THINGS AT FVHS?

YES. We had 5 members in the All-District Band and 6 members in the UNCG Carolina Band Festival. We offer a Jazz Ensemble after school in the spring, a pit orchestra for our spring musical and will be sending more than 40 students to the District Solo and Ensemble Festival in April. Several band members play in the Triangle Youth Brass Bands.

I'VE BEEN TOLD THAT I CAN'T FIT BAND INTO MY SCHEDULE. IS THIS TRUE?

Yes, you can! ***Look at the sample schedule on the last page.*** In this schedule, a student....

- Takes band both fall and spring semester - ***every semester.***
- Is able to take all the courses required for him to graduate, even with the requirements of the NC Course of Study, Career Pathways and the North Carolina Scholars Program.
- Is taking 2 AP classes (AP English and AP US History) and one extra science course.
- Takes two foreign language courses.
- Takes the new Freshman Seminar course required by FVHS.

Even with this load, common for students in the University Prep pathway, you have five extra electives outside of band courses. That's a minimum of one new course per school year. You've got plenty of room to take a vocational course, sing in a choral group, or take an art class. Even with all that, you can enjoy Band every semester!

DOES BEING IN BAND COST ANYTHING?

Each member of our Marching Band and Color Guard pay a “Fair Share” of the costs for our Band Camp, group travel, specialist instructors and for the people who write our music and drill. We call this cost our assessment. Our assessment is among the lowest of all Wake County high schools and is necessary to provide the foundation for the outstanding Fuquay-Varina Marching Bengals.

We hold several fundraisers so that any student who wants to be involved in Marching Band or Color Guard can meet their assessment. Scholarships are available (which cover some of the assessment fee) based upon need. ***For more information about these costs, come to the April 26th Marching Band Meeting.***

ARE AFTER-SCHOOL REHEARSALS REQUIRED?

The Marching Band holds rehearsals on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-8 PM from August-October. The Color Guard rehearses three evenings per week, usually Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. These groups also perform at competitions, home football games and parades in Fuquay, Holly Springs and Raleigh. Competitions are on Saturdays beginning with the last Saturday in September and continuing each Saturday in October. Students travel by bus to off-campus events and are closely chaperoned by staff and band parents.

All performing groups (Marching Band, Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, Symphonic Band) have after-school performances. As with your middle school band, these performances are a required part of the course.

I’LL BE INVOLVED WITH SPORTS/CHEERLEADING AND DON’T HAVE TIME TO TAKE BAND.

Most band students and their families are very busy. With careful time management and parent support, a student can successfully juggle many activities. I publish a schedule with all band activities at the beginning of the year to allow everyone to coordinate their personal, school and family calendars. Students must make a commitment to attending all band performances, regardless of which group they join (Marching Band, all concert bands).

Looking down the road, **many college admissions offices notice students who’ve been in high school marching band** because they know that these students have good time management skills and can work well with others.

HOW AM I GRADED IN BAND CLASS?

- Playing quizzes, written homework and in-class quizzes (each assignment is 5% of total grade)
- Playing tests and participation in rehearsals and performances (40 % of total grade)
- Daily participation (remaining percentage after quizzes and test grades are figured, usually 20-30%)

Regardless of a student’s skill level, they are mainly graded on their progress. If a student is not a strong player when they begin, this is taken into consideration. **Any student willing to work hard and improve WILL BE SUCCESSFUL.** In addition, our section leaders (juniors and seniors) will meet for small-group sectionals and help younger students with basic skills, learning new music and marching. Our Band Boosters hire clinicians to work with the students individually or in sections. Students may also take advantage of various private instructors.

I DON'T WANT TO BE IN THE MARCHING BAND, BUT I WANT TO KEEP PLAYING.

HOW DO I DO IT?

Sign up for the Concert Band during the fall semester. This group works very much like your middle school band in that we rehearse each day in class, but have few after-school commitments. The Concert Band performs two to three evening concerts during the fall semester.

WHAT ARE SYMPHONIC BAND AND WIND ENSEMBLE?

These two bands meet in the spring semester. Students are placed in a group based on an audition (for freshmen) or their previous year's performance and exam grade (current students). The Symphonic Band is for less-advanced students while the Wind Ensemble is for more-advanced players. Enrollment in the Wind Ensemble is limited to the most skilled players.

WHICH BAND COURSES DO I SIGN UP FOR?

- Sign up for one band course per semester. **TAKING ONE SEMESTER OF BAND IS NOT AN OPTION UNLESS YOU RECEIVE APPROVAL FROM MR. EDWARDS.**
- Find the group you're interested in on the left and choose the course title and level listed on the right.
- Freshmen interested in Wind Ensemble, our advanced spring band course, must audition for Mr. Edwards. Auditions will take place in April. Students will be notified of the audition date and requirements by their band director.

FALL SEMESTER BAND (CHOOSE ONE, MUST ALSO TAKE SPRING SEMESTER BAND)

Concert Band (grades 9-12) - *Instrumental Band I-Fall Concert*

Marching Band (grades 9-12) - *Instrumental Band I-Fall Marching*

SPRING SEMESTER (CHOOSE ONE, MUST ALSO TAKE FALL SEMESTER BAND)

NOTE: If you sign up for the wrong group, Mr. Edwards and Guidance will correct it.

Symphonic Band - *Instrumental Music I-Spring Symphonic (no audition required)*

Wind Ensemble - *Instrumental Music I-Spring Wind (audition required for freshmen)*

SAMPLE BAND STUDENT SCHEDULE

9th Grade

1st Semester

English 9 / Freshman Seminar
World History
Healthful Living/P.E.
Marching Band

2nd Semester

English 9 / Freshman Seminar
Earth Science
Algebra I (one-semester)
Symphonic Band

10th grade

English 10
Gov't and Economics
Art I
Marching Band

Geometry
Honors Biology
Spanish I
Symphonic Band

11th Grade

English 11
Honors US History
Marching Band
Spanish II

Algebra II
Chemistry
Honors Wind Ensemble
AP US History

12th Grade

Honors English 12
Law & Justice
Marching Band
Spanish III

AP English 12
Physiology
Honors Wind Ensemble
Discrete Math

32 Possible Credits

- * 5 English (4 required for graduation)
- * 4 Math
- * 5 Social Studies (4 required for graduation)
- * Freshman Seminar

- * 4 Science
- * 1 Health and P.E.
- * 3 Foreign Language
- * 9 "other" Electives

For more information about the FVHS Band and Color Guard program visit www.fvbb.com

Questions for Mr. Edwards?

Office phone = (919) 557-2531
School email = mfedwards@wcpss.net

Questions about the Band Boosters?

Co-Presidents Seth and Dottie Sanchez
(919) 557-5752