

Frequently Asked Questions

General Band Questions:

1. How many band programs are there at C.D. Hylton High School?

There are several band programs at Hylton: Symphonic Band (Advanced Band) and Concert Band (Intermediate Band) meet during the school day. The Jazz Band, Percussion Ensemble, Pep Band and the Marching Band meet after school.

2. How many band programs are credited courses?

All Bands are graded courses in which the student earns credit. Concert Band receives 1 credit each year. Symphonic Band is a weighted course much like AP classes and receives a .5 additional weight or 1.5 credits which helps their GPA for college. Marching Band members will also earn .5 credit per year which will also help raise your GPA. Pep Band and Jazz Band and Percussion Ensemble are extra-curricular band's and do not receive academic credit and meet after school once per week in the winter and spring. Music Theory and Piano Class are courses for 1 credit to learn to play the piano or for music composition.

3. What is the Concert attire?

Concert attire for boys is Tuxedo pants/jacket/white shirt with black cummerbund, bow tie, black socks and black dress shoes. The girl's attire is a floor length black gown with black dress shoe. All concert attire should be ordered through the school no later than the end of September so they can be altered in time for fall concert season.

4. Spring Trips?

Each year the band will take a trip, usually in the spring. The spring trip will be the big trip of the year and may include a competition, possible parade and more. Typically, Florida will be every other year with an alternation between Disney Theme Parks and Universal Studios Parks. The years we do not go to Florida, we will take a shorter trip such as New York, Myrtle Beach or other destination less than 8 hours away. Even though we will go to Florida every other year, we will not do the same theme parks so students can enjoy all of Florida's parks before graduation. We will spend 5 days on the band trip enjoying the parks and having fun. We will also perform and possibly compete in the park. The music department also takes a trip each year to either Busch Gardens or Hershey Park and that trip alternates each year. All spring trips are optional but fun!!!

5. Do I have to audition to be in band?

Students only audition if you wish to be in the Symphonic Band. There is no audition required to be in the Concert Band or Marching Band. Auditions are quite simple. You will be asked to play two scales, an etude, your chromatic scale and a short sight-reading. If you have a short piece of music you would like to play for me, I would be happy to listen. Audition etudes are available on the band website at:

www.hyltonbands.com

6. What is Percussion Ensemble?

Percussion Ensemble is an extra-curricular group designed to give percussionists of all abilities an opportunity to play not just band music, but all kinds of music for percussionists.

Percussionists enjoy music written just for them. (Currently after school volunteer group)

Marching Band Questions:

1. What does the Marching Band do?

The Marching Band plays at all home football games and some away games. They perform a set "show" on the field during halftime and promote school spirit by playing music from the stands throughout the game's first, second, and fourth quarters. The Band has "off" the third quarter of each game when they can mingle with friends and family or get something to eat. The Marching Band also competes in the VBODA state competition each October and participates in the Manassas Christmas parade each December.

2. I heard that the Band must practice during a summer band camp?

That is correct. **Band camp is scheduled for August 9-13.** It is mandatory for Marching Band members, including Flags. This is a fun and time to focus on learning the show music and, for some, learning how to march. Also, during camp, members will be fitted for their uniforms, get pictures and perform for the incoming freshmen during their orientation. If you are not available to attend band camp, it will be exceedingly difficult for you to be part of the marching band once the season starts. Be sure to bring your lunch, and wear loose fitting clothes, tennis shoes, hat, sunscreen and sunglasses as camp is held both indoors and outdoors regardless of the weather. Summer music practices will also be held from 6-8:30 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursdays in June to get a head start and learn the music and prepare for the July 4th parade.

3. What is the Color Guard?

This is the section that brings the colorful visual impact to the Marching Band. This group known as the "flags" or "Guard" by many fans, accentuates the musical movements throughout the show. Choreographed movements consisting of fast spins and tosses draw attention to the beautiful design in the fabrics, brightens the field and helps to focus attention on key parts of the marching band's performance. The Flags work closely with the marching band to coordinate and carefully synchronize their movements throughout the halftime show or competition.

4. Annual Marching Band Fun Day Trip to Kings Dominion?

Each fall the marching band only takes a fun trip to enjoy each other's company after working so hard during the season. This is a one-day fun trip with no competition or performance. Just enjoy the theme park with your friends during "Hallow-Haunt". Trip is optional and not required to attend.

5. Can my child miss a Marching Band practice?

We understand that conflicts do occur; however, students are encouraged to make every practice and event so that we can perform at our utmost best. Each position is dependent upon the other and anyone missing will impact the support to the entire team. The Marching Band does not hold practices on Mondays to allow time for dental appointments or other obligations. It is important to be committed to Marching Band. Please schedule Medical and Dental appts for Mondays if possible. If you need to miss part of practice for extra help with a teacher, let Mr. Basham know.

6. Can my child miss a game?

If you will not be able to attend a game, you must inform your section leader AND the Band Director with advance notice of at least 1 week. This gives the band a chance to practice marching and filling in the hole your absence creates so that the audience does not know a person is missing. You must have a valid reason to miss (Family Wedding, Funeral etc....)

7. Does my child bring their uniform home each week?

Generally, no. The band uniforms are left in the band room after each game. Your child may check out and take their uniform home only if they have a special event (i.e., UVA Honor Band Day)

8. What happens on Game Day?

Band members must wear their warmup outfit on "Game Day". On home game days, marching band members will report at 5 p.m. for a short practice. They will dress and assemble for their march onto the football field 30 minutes prior to game time. When the game has ended, the Band and Flags will march back to the school. All equipment must be returned and stored properly, and uniforms must be hung correctly and returned to uniform coordinator before a member can leave for the evening.

9. Is Mr. Basham addicted to chocolate?

Yes. He is crazy about it. He also loves fishing and playing videogames. Learn more about him and the band program on the band website at:

www.HyltonBands.com