



University High School Band

131 Bakers Ridge Road • Morgantown, WV 26505 • 304-291-9275 • 304-291-9248 (fax)

June 6, 2011

Dear UHS Band parent/guardian:

We feel it is very important at the University High School Band to have open lines of communication. While it is not always easy, we do our best to communicate clearly with students, parents, and middle school directors.

We have put together this packet to notify parents of the most important information concerning upcoming information, events, dates, and fees that are due.

Summer Calendar

The summer calendar has been available on www.uhsband.net since mid-March.

While the majority of band rehearsals will take place at UHS, we will hold a one-week day camp August 1-5 from 9:00 am to 8:30 pm at Camp Muffly. A shuttle bus will again be provided to take students between Cheat Lake Elementary and Westwood Middle and Camp Muffly.

Summer Band Attendance

All incoming freshmen (including those marching in parades only) attend freshman camp July 20-22. All band members (including those marching in parades only) attend basics camp July 25-29. Percussion and guard members will follow the schedules distributed by their respective instructors. All other rehearsals are for members participating in the field show.

Website

The UHS Band Boosters maintain a website for the specific purpose of communicating dates, times, events, recognizing student accomplishments, downloading band forms, etc. The address is listed above. Most important information can be found in the "Director's Comments" section at the bottom of the front page of the site.

The band website has gotten over 88,000 hits since it was last overhauled, and has become the primary source for disseminating information. If you have questions, you should always check the website first if possible.

Email

The band has an e-mail listserv set up for announcements concerning boosters meetings, important dates, etc. On the student health form (included), parents will be asked for a reliable e-mail address to which the band can send this information.

While we do not mind sending information to student addresses, we have found it much more efficient and effective to have parents receive these e-mails. We have also found that many parents appreciate the fact that important information is sent directly to them.

Important Information

1. Students who are planning to play a fall sport and march in parades only (or if they know that they will not be in band) are asked to inform Mr. Palmer by July 1 by sending an e-mail to the address listed at the end of this form so that we can adjust the numbers in the field show drill accordingly.
2. Health forms are included in this packet and can be found at www.uhsband.net/forms. ALL band students must return completed health forms before participating in ANY rehearsal or performance.
3. Field show and parade music will be distributed to freshmen the first day of Freshman Camp. Students who wish to receive music in advance can e-mail Mr. Palmer and music will be sent via e-mail.

Fees and Fundraising Obligation

We do all that we can to keep fees to a minimum, but because state, county, and school level funding is minimal, there are certain expenses that must be covered by band students in order for the band to operate.

Each student is responsible to raise a certain amount of profit in order for the band to meet basic operating expenses such as bus bills, instructor fees, instrument purchases and repairs, etc.

The fundraising obligation has remained at \$200 per family for the last decade. Because of ever-increasing costs associated with running the band, the fundraising obligation will rise to \$220 per family beginning in the 2011-2012 school year. Families may always opt to pay the \$220 in lieu of fundraising.

Below is a list of the most common expenses associated with the band, along with their due dates:

FEE	COST	DUE DATE
Band Camp	\$120.00	7/25/11
Uniform Rental	\$40.00	<i>when uniforms are distributed</i>
Tux/Gown Rental (Wind Ensemble only)	\$25.00	<i>when tuxes/gowns are distributed</i>
Uniform dry-cleaning deposit (returnable)	\$25.00	<i>when uniforms are distributed</i>
School instrument rental (if applicable)	\$25.00	<i>when instruments are distributed</i>
Replacement band t-shirts (first one is free)	\$10.00	<i>when shirts are ordered</i>
Sectional shirts (not required)	\$10.00	<i>when shirts are ordered</i>
Band shoes (available at Fawley Music)	\$30.00	

Camp fees must be paid in full prior to the start of camp in order for students to participate in the UHS Band. (Parade only marchers do not pay a summer band or band camp fee.) If you have difficulty paying fees, please contact a director. **The boosters have a program available to assist families with some fees, if necessary.**

Florida Trip

The band will travel to Orlando Florida for the All-American Music Festival during the spring of 2012. The tentative dates for this trip are March 22-26, 2012, though this date has not been confirmed.

The cost of the trip will likely be in the \$500-\$600 per-student range. We would like for EVERY student to have the opportunity to participate in this trip. The most common way to raise funds for it is to sell fruit and sell Elimination Dinner tickets.

However, we also recommend that families begin planning for the Florida trip now by putting aside \$25.00-\$40.00 per month in the time leading up to the trip in order to minimize the impact of the cost when the time comes.

Marching Band Uniform Measurement Form

While Uniform Chair Sheri Solomon has a good idea of the sizes needed to fit returning band members, she needs to gather sizing information of new band members. All new members should receive a uniform measurement form in this packet. If you do not, one can be found on the UHS Band website.

Independence Day Band Information

We have included a form for any student who wishes to participate in the Morgantown Independence Day Parade Band. Students who participate will receive gift cards/coupons as a token of appreciation. (The UHS directors do not direct this band.)

Completed forms should be sent or e-mailed to the address listed on the form.

Contact Information

Of course, there is much more information than we are able to cover in this packet, but we hope we have answered the most common questions. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact the directors at the numbers and addresses listed below:

NAME	PHONE	E-MAIL
Mark Palmer, director	304.291.9275	mpalmer@access.k12.wv.us
Neil King, assistant	304.291.9275	nlking@access.k12.wv.us

We hope that this information is helpful to you and we look forward to working with you and your children this year.

Sincerely,



Mark S. Palmer
Director of Bands