



Chesnee High School Bands

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Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2022 Chesnee High School Marching Band. If you have received this welcome letter, your student has turned in a "letter of intent" form before school was dismissed. With this letter, they committed to participate in this year's marching band along with a parent signature acknowledging your student's participation and financial commitment that is required. If your student is not going to participate this upcoming season, we need to know immediately. Please call the band office at 461-7812, leave a message or email Mr. Downs at akeem.downs@spart2.org and we will return your call as soon as possible.

There are many upcoming events we want to be sure you are clear on. **This summer there are 3 evening rehearsals from 6pm-8:30pm at the high school band room: June 14, 28 and July 12.** We ask that students attend at least 1 of the 3 rehearsals. We will give out music and information, and it keeps your child playing throughout the summer. If your family is on vacation, VBS or there is another important event one of these days, please just leave a message on the band room voicemail so that we know where your student is that evening. Again, these are not mandatory, but a way to keep in touch over the summer.

July 24th from 2pm-4pm is "Form and Fee Day". The band room will be open so that you may drop by and finish paying for your student's My Fair Share. At this time you will also fill out medical forms and permission forms for the entire year. These forms are a necessity for your child to participate. Parents that are attending camp will be here. If you need to speak with any about your student's possible special medical needs, this would be a wonderful time.

Pre Camp is July 21-22, 25-29 at CHS and is our time to prepare students for camp. We begin to focus on our marching fundamentals, music and get students familiar with terminology we will use at camp. Pre Camp is mandatory. If there is a conflict, please call the band office or email! The schedule is below:

Guard and Percussion: Monday – Thurs 8:30am – 5pm

Everyone: Monday – Thurs 8:30am-12:00pm

Brass: Mon and Wed 1:30-5pm

Woodwinds: Tues and Thurs 1:30-5pm

FRIDAY – EVERYONE 8:30am-1:00pm

Each day there is a lunch break from 12:00pm to 1:30pm. Students may bring their lunch, walk to Subway etc, or someone may pick up your student. However, if they are to return at 1:30pm for the afternoon session, they must be on time. On Friday, we pack up everything we need for band camp.

Band Camp July 28 – Aug 2 @ Table Rock Wesleyan Camp, Table Rock SC -MANDATORY

Included you will find what students will need to bring to camp along with directions to the camp.

On Sunday, July 31, a guardian must bring their student to camp and check in with them. If you are unable to bring your student, please call the band room for options. Specific times are located on our Band Camp information form included.

Attendance Policy – brief overview

During pre camp, we will be going over the Chesnee High Band Handbook. In this book there is information on important topics such as dress code, procedures on tardies and absences. This handbook will come home along with a form to return stating you have read the handbook with your student and understand the policies of the CHS Band. We require students to make contact with a director if they are going to be absent from any band event. The only exception to this is summer rehearsals where a voicemail message or email will suffice due to summer band office hours. Students are excused for illness, death in the family or a pre-arranged absence that Mr. Downs has excused. Do not assume we know! Your student must speak to a director! Do not send word through other students. If a student is absent from school, they must still make contact with a director. This also lets us know about your student and if there is anything we can do.

June 28th and July 12th – 6:30pm: Booster Parent Meeting in the CHS Band Room

This meeting is for all parents of a Chesnee Band member. Our booster club has been wonderful in providing the extra needs our district cannot provide so that our band is a successful operation. You will find that these meetings are excellent in getting information your student may forget to tell. Parents are more than welcome to answer all your questions. I am always in attendance and address the group of our upcoming events. This is a wonderful group to become involved in. Through the booster club, you can help with our various events and get a closer look at your child's band experience. We need various forms of help from chaperones, sewers, cooks, builders, etc. If you are willing to give just a lil of your time, we have a way you can help your student's band experience!

After camp..... now what?!?!

The 1st Tuesday after camp, Aug 9th, we begin our Tues/Thurs rehearsals. The first week of rehearsals is from 6pm-8:30pm. We have a large idea of the show and now we must perfect it. **Once school begins, we will practice after school from 6pm-8:30pm on Tuesday and Thursday. We will stick to this schedule until September. See schedule for more details.** Also, in October, students should leave Mondays after school till 5pm available for sectionals.

Shoe/Glove Lady

On a date to be announced (typically in early August), the "Shoe Lady" will be here for you and your student to purchase marching band shoes. These are a special type of shoe, designed for marching or guard. The approx cost is **\$38**. Students who are a woodwind or brass player must purchase 2 pairs of black gloves for a total of **\$5**. If your student has extra money in their MFS, they may use it to pay for their equipment, however if they do not, you must pay at this time. Checks or cash is welcome. Checks will be made directly to Kathy Pickens. Students will try on samples before they order. I suggest you attend the purchase to ensure your student buys the correct size. If you have old shoes that your student cannot wear and would like to donate to a student who may not be able to afford new shoes, please send them this summer.

My Fair Share

All fees should be paid by July 21st. If you need special arrangements, contact Mr. Downs or Mrs. Towery and our booster club. Mr. Downs will have account information until a new MFS treasurer is named. If you send payments via your student to summer rehearsals, please place it in an envelope with your student's name written on the front and the purpose of the money.

Fees:

\$300 - Winds

\$350 - Percussion and Colorguard

I hope this information is helpful, especially to those new parents. Summer office hours are days of rehearsal but I check my email and voicemail on a regular basis. I hope that you enjoy family time this summer and are refreshed and ready for an exciting new band year.

Mr. Akeem Downs, M.Ed
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Booster's Treasurer - Bonnie Towery – 864-590-2110
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