

# *Douglas S. Freeman Bands*

Douglas Southall Freeman High School • 8701 Three Chopt Rd. • Henrico, VA 23229  
[www.freemanband.org](http://www.freemanband.org) • (804) 673-3700

June 2017

Dear Band Parents and Students,

Welcome to a new year of great music with the Freeman Band program! Time will sail by this summer and before we know it, Band Camp will be upon us. This letter contains lots of important information. Please read it carefully and review all of the information in the Marching Band Information area of our website as soon as possible.

The Band Camp Staff is well under way preparing the 2017 Rebel Brigade Field Show. This year's show is entitled "Shadows and Light." Our website, [www.freemanband.org](http://www.freemanband.org), will soon have the music available for you to download. Music was handed out at the end of the past school year. If you need another copy, please keep checking the site and, when available, download the music and keep practicing! The files are password protected. Section Leaders will have the password to give to their section members. **Section Leaders and Captains should have all of the music memorized by the start of Band Camp!** Everyone's role in this band is equally important, both musically and visually. Please keep this in mind as we progress through the season!

The calendar for the year has been updated and can be found on the website. For the fall, we will play at all home football games, several away games, and three or four competitions.

Band Camp will be held on campus at Freeman. We will be using the outfield area of the baseball field to learn drill and we will be in the band room and other sections of the building for music rehearsals. In addition to camp this summer, we will be having 4 music rehearsal on Monday evenings beginning at the end of June in the band room. If you are in town, you are expected to come to these rehearsals. Section Leaders and Drum Majors will be contacting their sections to remind them about these rehearsals throughout the summer.

## **DSF 2017 Summer Music Rehearsal Schedule:**

June 26 – 6:00pm-8:00pm

July 3 – 6:00pm-8:00pm

July 24 – 6:00pm-8:00pm

July 31 – 6:00pm-8:00pm

## **DSF 2017 Band Camp Schedule:**

August 3, 9am – **Student Leadership Camp**

August 7-8, 9am-12pm – **New Members, all percussion, color guard)**

August 9-10, 9am-3pm – **New Members, 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Marchers, all percussion, color guard**

August 14-17, 8am-5pm – **FULL BAND and COLOR GUARD**

August 21-24, 8am-5pm – **FULL BAND and COLOR GUARD**

August 25 – **Home Football Game**

August 28, 6pm – **Family Preview Performance and Picnic**

**All Students (Band & Guard) report at 5:00pm**

August 30, 5:30pm-8pm – **Post Camp Rehearsal (Full Band and Color Guard)**

August 31, 5:30pm-8pm – **Post Camp Rehearsal (Full Band and Color Guard)**

Marching band is an athletic activity and a lot of time is spent outside. Even though we try to limit our outside time to the mornings when it is cooler, the weather in August will be hot and humid, so to ensure productive rehearsals, some precautions must be taken.

Appropriate dress is crucial. Students should wear light-colored t-shirts, shorts of appropriate length, hats, sunglasses if desired and comfortable sneakers with socks. **No sandals or flip flops, and no bare feet!** A water-resistant sunscreen is *strongly* recommended. **Please keep in mind that the dress code stipulated in the Henrico County Code of Conduct does apply!**

Eat Breakfast each morning! What you eat and drink (or don't eat and drink) will directly affect your ability to rehearse, and thus affect the overall band's productivity. The Boosters will provide coolers of water, though all students should bring their own water as well. **Keeping yourself properly hydrated is of utmost importance!**

All students need to bring their own lunch (lots of fruits and lighter foods) each day. **No one will be allowed to leave school grounds during Band Camp hours.**

**Each student must be fully prepared for camp with the following items each day:**

1. Instrument and accessories such as reeds, valve oil, etc.
2. Pencil with an eraser
3. Sturdy three-ring binder with sheet protectors.
4. Red, White & Blue Poker chips (to help in learning drill)
5. Your music
6. Percussionists should have fully equipped stick bags (See letter from Matt on the website)

This year's Marching Season fee will be \$200. **Fees are due by August 9, 2017.** This fee partially funds special instructors for each section (not paid for by the County), field show design, one Rebel Brigade T-shirt specifically designed for our 2017 field show, the main course for the picnic, equipment truck rental for away games and competitions, and charter buses for one competition.

On our website, there is a payment form which explains a few other fees, such as marching shoes and gloves (if needed), and color guard shoes and gloves, that are due with the forms by August 10<sup>th</sup> as well.

The DSF Band Boosters provide critical funding for our program during the year, as well as volunteer support to make the program happen. Please join this important group and become an active member. The membership form and fees can be included with your other forms.

All checks should be made payable to "DSF Band Boosters." If you need to mail your check and forms, please send to:

Karen Cohen  
1903 Girard Ave.  
Henrico, VA 23229

If payment is not possible by the due date, please email Karen Cohen at [DSFBand1@gmail.com](mailto:DSFBand1@gmail.com) to set up an alternate payment plan. We are always more than willing to be flexible as long as a good faith effort is made.

Finally, if you haven't already done so, please send us your email address ASAP so we can prepare to start sending you schedule changes, reminders, etc. Just send an email to [DSFRebelBand@gmail.com](mailto:DSFRebelBand@gmail.com) with your name and the student's name. You can also join us on Facebook. Just do a search for "Douglas Freeman High School Bands."

Our goal for Band Camp 2017 is to have the show well under way for the performance and picnic on **Monday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm**, so come ready to work hard and be successful. This is going to be a great year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Blankenship". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rob" being more prominent.

Rob Blankenship,  
Director of Bands

PS: AS always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me via email at [rpblankenship@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:rpblankenship@henrico.k12.va.us). You may also contact me through the main office at 673-3700. Please watch our website ([www.freemanband.org](http://www.freemanband.org)) for any changes and updates – it is updated regularly, even throughout the summer!