

Douglas S. Freeman Bands

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

June 2018

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 Marching Band Staff is well under way preparing the 2018 Rebel Brigade Field Show. Our website, 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 in July 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 2018 Summer Music Rehearsal Schedule:

July 2 – 6:00pm-8:00pm

July 9 – 6:00pm-8:00pm

July 23 – 6:00pm-8:00pm

July 30 – 6:00pm-8:00pm

DSF 2018 Band Camp Schedule:

August 2, 9am – **Student Leadership Camp**

August 6-7, 9am-12pm – **New Members, all percussion, color guard)**

August 8-9, 9am-3pm – **New Members, 2nd Year Marchers, all percussion, color guard**

August 13-16, 8am-5pm – **FULL BAND and COLOR GUARD**

August 20-23, 8am-5pm – **FULL BAND and COLOR GUARD**

August 24 – **Away Football Game** (*this is tentative*)

August 27, 6pm – **Family Preview Performance and Picnic**

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

August 29, 5:30pm-8pm – **Post Camp Rehearsal (Full Band and Color Guard)**

August 30 – **Home Football Game**

Marching band is an athletic activity! 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 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 the website for more info)

This year's Marching Season fee will be \$215 for all band members. **Fees are due by August 6, 2018.** 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 2018 field show, the main course for the picnic, equipment truck rental for away games and competitions, and charter buses for one competition. **First year Color Guard students will need to pay an additional \$50 for a "warm-up" outfit.**

Fees can be paid through our website, www.freemaband.org. Marching shoes and gloves, color guard shoes and gloves, and additional T-shirts (if wanted) can be ordered on the website. There is also a Student Contact Information form on the site that must be filled out. There are also two forms that must be printed and turned in to the band office. **All forms and all fees are due by August 6, 2018.**

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.

Payments can be made by credit card (on the website) or check. Checks should be made payable to "DSF Band Boosters." If you need to mail your check, 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 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 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 2018 is to have the show well under way for the performance and picnic on **Monday, August 27th 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. You may also contact me through the main office at 673-3700. Please watch our website (www.freemanband.org) for any changes and updates – it is updated regularly, even throughout the summer!