

Douglas S. Freeman Bands

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

May 2020

Dear Band Parents and Students,

Welcome to a new year of great music with the Freeman Band program! We are preparing for the fall marching season in the hope that it will proceed as usual. Of course, we will follow all necessary and appropriate guidelines set by Henrico County Public Schools and our governor.

The Marching Band Staff is well under way preparing the 2020 Rebel Brigade Field Show. Our website, www.freemanband.org, will soon have the music available for you to download. 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!

A complete Summer Schedule for Marching Band can be found on the band's website at <http://www.freemanband.org/marching-band.html>. In the fall, we will play at all home football games, several away games, and three or four competitions.

Due to COVID19, we are handling Marching Band Fees differently this year. A non-refundable deposit of \$100 is due by August 17, 2020. The remainder will be due at a date to be determined later this summer and will be based upon the expenses that we are certain need to be accommodated. This fee partially funds special instructors for each section, field show design, one Rebel Brigade T-shirt specifically designed for our 2020 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.**

Marching band is an athletic activity! The weather in August will be hot and humid, so to ensure productive rehearsals, 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, *one of each*, to help in learning drill
5. Your music
6. Percussionists should have fully equipped stick bags (see website for more info)

Fees can be paid through our website, www.freemanband.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.

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.

Marching Band payments can be made by credit card, Venmo (on the website) or by check, payable to “DSF Band Boosters.”

If payment is not possible by the due date, please email David Kupstas (Booster treasurer) at DSFBand1@gmail.com to set up an alternate payment plan. We are able 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 DSFBand1@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 2020 is to have the show well under way for the performance and picnic at the end of camp, so come ready to work hard and be successful. This is going to be a great year!

Sincerely,



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!