

Douglas S. Freeman Bands

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

June 2016

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 Band Camp Essentials area of our website as soon as possible.

The Band Camp Staff, most of whom the returning students already know, is well under way preparing the 2016 Rebel Brigade Field Show. This year's show is entitled "Revolution." 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. However, 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 is also being updated and can be found on the website. For the fall, we will play at all home football games, several away games, one clinic 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 Green Acres for music rehearsals. In addition to Band Camp, 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, the expectation is that you come to these rehearsals. Section Leaders and Drum Majors will be contacting their sections to remind them about these rehearsals throughout the summer.

DSF 2016 Summer Music Rehearsal Schedule:

June 27th – 6:00pm-8:00pm
July 11th – 6:00pm-8:00pm
July 18th – 6:00pm-8:00pm
August 1st – 6:00pm-8:00pm

DSF 2016 Band Camp Schedule:

August 8th & 9th, 9:00–12:00 – **Student Leadership Camp/Color Guard Camp**
August 10th, 9:00–3:00 – **1st Years, all percussion, color guard, student leaders**
August 11th, 9:00–3:00 – **1st & 2nd Years, all percussion, color guard, student leaders**
August 12th, 9:00–3:00 – **1st, 2nd, 3rd Years, all percussion, color guard, student leaders**
August 15th- 19th, 8:00–5:00 – **FULL BAND and COLOR GUARD**
August 22nd–26th, 8:00–5:00 – **FULL BAND and COLOR GUARD**
August 29th – 6:00pm – **Family Preview Performance and Picnic**
All Students (Band & Guard) report at 5:00pm

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.** And again, students should drink plenty of non-carbonated fluids.

Each student must be fully prepared for camp with the following items each day:
Please be sure to have these items on the first day of camp.

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 10, 2016.** 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 2016 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 10th 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:

Julie Black
7005 Lakewood Dr.
Henrico, VA 23229

If payment is not possible by the due date, please email Julie Black at jvblack1@comcast.net

or call (804) 938-2898 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 2016 is to have the show well under way for the performance and picnic on **Monday, August 29th 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".

Rob Blankenship,
Director of Bands

PS: AS always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me via email at rpblanke@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!