

Douglas S. Freeman Bands

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

Dear Rising 8th Grade Band Students and Parents:

The Douglas Freeman High School Marching Mavericks will be holding auditions very soon for rising 8th graders interested in marching with the band for the 2025 Marching Season. This is an opportunity for 8th grade band students to be a part of a high school organization while still in middle school. These students will be full members of the Marching Mavericks for the 2025 season. All Marching Band students will earn a **.5 honors academic credit** and will also be able to familiarize themselves with Freeman High School before they are enrolled here.

The Summer Marching Band Calendar is below. (All dates are mandatory unless otherwise noted):

May 19, 6:30pm – 2025 Marching Mavericks Welcome Event

June 23, 6pm-8pm – Marching Band Rehearsal (mandatory unless out of town)

June 30, 6pm-8pm – Marching Band Rehearsal (mandatory unless out of town)

July 7, 6pm-8pm – Marching Band Rehearsal (mandatory unless out of town)

July 22-23, 9am-12pm – New Member Camp

July 24-25, 9am-3pm – New Member Camp

July 28–31, 8am-5pm – BAND CAMP

August 1, 8am-1pm – BAND CAMP

August 4-7, 8am-5pm – BAND CAMP

August 8, 8am-1pm – BAND CAMP

August 11, 6pm - Family Picnic and Preview Performance

August 13, 5:30pm-8pm – Post Camp Rehearsal (tentative)

Marching Season Fees will be determined later this school year and are generally about \$250 per member. Marching jackets, gloves and shoes will also need to be purchased. These items will be ordered during the summer.

The audition process will consist of playing a few major scales and a prepared piece of the student's choosing. Two teacher recommendations, parent commitment/permission signature forms and a final recommendation by the middle school band director are also required. All requirements must be submitted by **May 2, 2025.**

High School band programs offer many performance opportunities and are therefore, both challenging and rewarding. While being a member of the Freeman Marching Mavericks is a large time commitment, it will teach your child the benefits of teamwork, dedication, persistence and loyalty. I look forward to welcoming your family into the Freeman Band Family!

Rob Blankenship,
Director of Bands

rpblankenship@henrico.k12.va.us

Dear Parents,

Please sign and return this form to your student's band director by **Friday, May 2nd**. Your child must have this form signed in order to complete the audition process to march as an 8th grader with the Freeman Marching Mavericks.

I give my child, _____, permission to audition for the Freeman High School Marching Mavericks for the 2025 marching season. I am aware that if my child is selected, he or she will be a full member of the marching band and will therefore be expected to participate in all band activities and events. This includes Band Camp, football games, competitions, and all rehearsals.

(Parent's printed name)

(Parent's signature)

(date)