

June 15, 2010

Dear Band Students and Parents,

Hello from Fenton bands. We hope we find you and your family enjoying a relaxing summer. Even though it is June, we wanted to let you know about a very important activity that your student will be involved in...**Marching Band!** We are very excited to get under way with another year of exhilarating music and pageantry with the Fenton High School community.

Your student's participation in the FHS Marching Band will not only provide another opportunity for them to perform, but give them a lifelong experience of friends, music, fun, and achievement that they will never forget. The marching band consists of all students enrolled in the Fenton High School Concert Band and Symphonic Winds. All of our students new and seasoned are good enough to participate in this ensemble. Please make sure that you thoroughly read this letter.

This year's halftime show is entitled "Oz," which will showcase many songs from the Wizard of Oz and Wicked! Be prepared for the classic melodies of *We're off to See the Wizard*, *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*, *Defying Gravity*, and more! We cannot wait to show off our high caliber marching band to the Bensenville, Wood Dale, and Northwestern University communities.

### Camp

In pursuit of excellence, it is necessary to spend time working on the fundamentals of marching and musicianship. **All FHS Band students and color guard members must attend camp.** We understand that students are involved with other activities; however, we feel confident that with communication, we should be able to work out any conflicts that may arise. Students who have conflicts will need to work those out with Mr. George before July 18th.

Does band camp affect your grade? Yes! If we do not spend time preparing prior to school's start, then it will be impossible to meet our early performance schedule. Those who attend band camp with 100% participation give themselves the best opportunity to start the school year with a feeling of success. The camp schedule is as follows (*lunch is provided on Monday. Dinner is provided on Tuesday and Thursday. Students may bring a sack lunch and eat it at school if they choose. All events take place at FHS.*):

<b>August 2 - 5</b>	<b>8:00 AM – Noon, 1:30 – 4:00</b>	<b>ALL BAND AND COLORGUARD STUDENTS</b>
<b>August 3 &amp; 5</b>	<b>5:30-8:00 PM</b>	<b>ALL BAND AND COLORGUARD STUDENTS</b>
<b>August 10</b>	<b>6:00-8:00 PM</b>	<b>ALL BAND AND COLORGUARD STUDENTS</b>
<b>August 12</b>	<b>6:00-8:00 PM</b>	<b>ALL BAND AND COLORGUARD STUDENTS</b>

\*Please note the new times on Tuesday August 3<sup>rd</sup> and Thursday August 5<sup>th</sup>. There will be no camp on Friday.

\*\*The yearbook and fall program picture will be taken on August 17<sup>th</sup>. Families wishing to order a picture of the band as well as individual or small group shots may order them at this time.

\*\*A schedule of rehearsals and performances for the fall will be distributed on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August.

**\*\*\*All freshmen should attend one of the July FHS orientation dates to avoid conflicts with band camp.**

### Band Camp Themes and Special Events

Each day of band camp will have a theme and a special event. Show off your musical spirit and have fun by participating in the following events and themes:

<u>Day</u>	<u>Theme</u>	<u>Special Events</u>
Monday	Sports Attire Day	Pizza party in the small cafeteria @ noon
Tuesday	Hawaiian/Swim Day	Take a freshman to lunch day, dinner party for band at 4:00 PM
Wednesday	Dress crazy day	Watermelon seed spitting contest @ 12:45 in the courtyard
Thursday	Section Pride Day	Water-balloon toss contest @ 12:45 on the field BBQ Cook-out @ 4:00 PM
Thursday 7:30 PM	Performance for families @ 7:30	Ice cream social after camp ends for students and families

### Band Boosters

The pizza party, BBQ, dinner party, watermelon, water balloons, and ice cream social are sponsored by the FHS Band Boosters. If any parent is interested in volunteering to help the bands in any way during camp or throughout the year, please feel free to contact the band booster president, Donna Lange, at [del6164@sbcglobal.net](mailto:del6164@sbcglobal.net).

### What to bring to camp

Students should wear **tennis shoes or sneakers** to camp as well as comfortable clothing every day. DO NOT WEAR SANDALS/FLOPS! We will be outside during the mornings and inside during the afternoons, so please dress appropriately. Sun block, bug spray, and hats are highly recommended! **All FHS Marching band members will need to have a three ring binder (at least 1" please) with sheet protectors for ALL MUSIC and MARCHING DRILL.** This will be collected and graded throughout the grading period. In addition, students will need to have their instrument (in good working condition), reeds, mouthpieces, sticks (percussion) and at least two pencils. If a student needs to borrow an instrument, they should contact Mr. George by July 16<sup>th</sup>. Students are highly encouraged to bring their own water bottle or cooler for water.

Each student should practice each piece of music (enclosed) and bring it with them to camp: *Wizard of Oz Medley*, *Home/Over the Rainbow*, *Wicked Part 2*, *Les Courageux*, *Star Spangled Banner*, and *On Wisconsin (On FHS)*. Recordings will be available online at the Fenton Marching Band Page.

### Performances

The Marching Band performs at all home football games including halftime, pre-game and various pep songs in the stands. In addition, we will be performing at a home Northwestern University football game. There will also be a parade for homecoming. A complete schedule will be handed out on August 5<sup>th</sup>.

### Fenton High School Athletics/Activities Policy

The Fenton High School Athletics/Activities policy is designed to encourage students at FHS to participate in activities and athletics without penalizing the student. With this encouragement comes the agreement that:

- All Performances or Games take president over all practices/rehearsals.
- It is the responsibility of the student to communicate to their coaches/sponsors when FHS practices/rehearsals/meetings conflict with each other. Regardless of student choice, there is no penalty from either activity as long as coaches/sponsors have been made aware of the situation in advance and the student's participation decision is fair to their commitments.
- It is the responsibility of the student to communicate to their coaches/sponsors when there is a direct conflict between activity/athletic performances or contests. In this situation, every effort should be made to meet both commitments. In the event that this is impossible, students have the choice of activity without penalty.

### Staff

We are pleased to announce the return of clarinet teacher Grecia Landin, low brass teacher Shan Kazmi, and trumpet teacher Kelly Adair. We would also like to welcome back Mr. Christopher Rose with the Color guard and Mr. Brian Collins with the drum line. There will also be a few others to help in the effort.

### **Color Guard**

One of the more unique sections in marching band is the Color Guard. Color Guard is a combination of movement, dance, and equipment performance (flag and other equipment). The FHS Color Guard, instructed by Mr. Christopher Rose, is open to any FHS student or band student interested and willing to make the commitment. Any new student interested in joining the Color Guard should contact Mr. Rose as soon as possible at [chrisr1175@gmail.com](mailto:chrisr1175@gmail.com) or 312-523-6660.

### **Apparel and Shoes**

The FHS Marching Band will be wearing black "Drillmaster" marching band shoes for all marching band activities. These shoes also serve well as "concert dress" shoes. This is a shoe specially designed for the marching techniques that the FHS Marching Band uses. All students who need shoes will be fitted during band camp. Shoes will arrive prior to the first performance. The cost for a pair of shoes is \$27.00 and can be paid for at registration. Students who need fundraising opportunities for this expense should speak with Mr. George so that arrangements can be made. The band also has a limited number of gently used marching band shoes for \$5.00. These will also be available to try on at band camp.

Color guard members who do not have shoes will be expected to purchase shoes for the season and will be fitted for shoes during camp. Color guard members can expect to pay around \$30.00 for shoes.

Students will be fitted for a uniform during camp. Each student will receive an FHS Marching Band t-shirt, which will also be a part of their uniform. This includes color guard members.

### **Lettering in Marching Band**

Students will have the opportunity to letter in Marching Band throughout the fall season. The following criteria must be met in order to letter in Marching Band:

1. Attend all of the Marching Bison Band camp dates
2. Attend all of the Marching Bison Band performances
3. Miss a maximum of one rehearsal during the season
4. Have a maximum of three tardies
5. Maintain eligibility throughout the Marching Bison Band season
6. Maintain a strong work ethic and positive attitude throughout the season

*\*In the event of that a student must be excused from a camp date or performance, the student will be excluded from lettering eligibility*

Students who have earned a letter will receive their music numerals (first year students), lyre patch (second year students), JV music patch (third year students), and varsity music letter (fourth year students). These will be passed out at our end of the season marching band party.

### **In Closing**

Our goal and vision for the Marching Bison Band is to perform at the highest level of excellence in rehearsal and performance while looking and sounding great in everything we do. It is also our goal to entertain ourselves and our audience with our music and to have fun!

We hope that this mailer gives you some guidance as to what we need to do to make the fall marching season fun, rewarding and successful. If for any reason you need to speak with me, please e-mail me at [georgeg@fenton100.org](mailto:georgeg@fenton100.org) or call the band extension at 630-860-4944. You may also find more information at [www.fenton100.org/musicweb](http://www.fenton100.org/musicweb). Enjoy the rest of your summer and we will see you in August. Strike up the band!

Musically yours,  
Garett A. George  
Fenton Community High School Bands