

**Date:** April 26, 2010

**To:** The Guidance Department of  
Havelock Middle School  
Tucker Creek Middle School

**From:** Jorge A. Benitez                      Christopher D. Elbing  
Band Director                              Assistant Director of Music  
Havelock High School                      Havelock High School

**Re:** Band Class Registration For 2010-2011 Upcoming Freshmen

The following band classes will be offered during the 2010-2011 school year:

**Fall 2010**

**Jazz Ensemble  
Marching Band  
Brass & Woodwind Class  
Percussion Class  
Concert Band**

**Spring 2011**

**Jazz Ensemble  
Symphonic Band (Grades 9-12)  
Wind Ensemble (by audition)**

It is recommended that students register for band year round, especially during their freshman year. Please encourage band students to take both semesters; they sometimes do not believe they have room for band in their schedules. However, by the time they reach their senior year most students are trying to find electives to fill their schedules.

**Freshman should sign up for 2 classes:**

**1<sup>st</sup> class Marching Band(52562B-01) or Concert Band(52552A-01)  
2<sup>nd</sup> class Symphonic Band(52572A-01)**

Thank you,

Mr. Jorge A. Benitez

Dear Future High School Band Students,

In the upcoming month you will have the opportunity to continue your band classes by registering to take band this fall at Havelock High School. Listed below are the classes that are offered in the fall and spring semesters.

### Fall 2010

**Jazz Ensemble**  
**Marching Band**  
**Brass & Woodwind Class**  
**Percussion Class**  
**Concert Band**

### Spring 2011

**Jazz Ensemble**  
**Symphonic Band (Grades 9-12)**  
**Wind Ensemble (by audition)**

#### Class Descriptions:

**Jazz Ensemble** – is a “0” period class, meaning it begins 50 minutes before 1<sup>st</sup> period and is a 2-semester class. You must take both semesters to receive credit for the year. This class meets from 7:05 to 7:45. Attendance and punctuality are expected. For the most part, this class consists of 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders. It is a demanding organization that does quite a bit of performing. For most 8<sup>th</sup> grade students this ensemble will be a goal for the future. If you feel that you are ready, you may audition for this ensemble. Auditions take place for this ensemble during the first ten days of class. All who are interested should simply sign up for the course. On the tenth day, there will be auditions and the results will be posted the next day.

**Marching Band** – is the largest class at HHS. Our marching band is an organization that prides itself in the entertainment of audiences in the North & South Carolinas and in Virginia. Our number one goal is to gain a positive experience in making music and entertaining audiences. Our marching band performs well over 20 times a year. We go to almost all away games and perform at all home games, participate in 4 or 5 competitions on Saturdays, will be hosting our 8<sup>th</sup> annual band competition, participate in 2 to 3 Christmas parades and also present our very own holiday concert for well over 600 people.

To perform well we have to practice quite a bit. There will be a 3-day marching camp in June (22<sup>th</sup> –24<sup>th</sup>) for all new marchers and on the last day we will bring in our veterans. All the rest of our summer practices will begin after July 4<sup>th</sup>. **We have a mandatory band camp for all students on campus for one week.** During the summer many of you will take vacations, these are excused absences and do not effect the semester grade. However, band camp is part of your grade. Band Camp is scheduled for July 26<sup>th</sup> through July 30<sup>th</sup>. Once school begins, the regular practice schedule for the week is Tuesday and Thursday 3:45-6:00pm.

**Concert Band** – this class has been developed for two main purposes. First, many middle school students are coming to the high school at many different skill levels and may not be as prepared in all areas of music. This class will concentrate on individual playing skills. Our performances will be limited to a fall concert and our holiday concert in December. The second purpose is for the students that want to continue their musical training year round, but they do not want to take Marching Band.

We also allow students who have been successful at their main instrument to begin their work on a secondary instrument.

**Symphonic Band** – this ensemble is the transition ensemble from the Middle School level to the High School level. This spring ensemble will perform 3 concerts and is designed for the intermediate student musician. Students in grades 9-12 can sign up for this course.

**Wind Ensemble** – this is the premiere spring ensemble that will represent Havelock High School in our drive for musical excellence. This class is designed primarily for the advanced music student. Our performing music difficulty is grade 5 or 6. Daily music practice is required. This class is also offered as a honors course for all 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders. Many students aim to make this ensemble so that they can be challenged. Upcoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders can audition for this ensemble if they feel that they are ready. Auditions for freshmen who want to audition for Wind Ensemble will consist of a sight-reading piece. We recommend that you participate in the marching band in the fall to prepare for wind ensemble.

#### Suggestions:

- **I strongly urge ALL freshmen to take band both semesters your first year. If you do not take band your 1<sup>st</sup> semester you will be behind the rest of the class!**
- Chorus members can still sing and be in band.
- All band students are required to participate in fundraisers.
- **Marching band summer camp is mandatory and is July 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>.**
- **Anyone interested in Marching Band Colorguard can audition on May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 4-6:30pm.**
- **Marching Band Percussion auditions will be on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

Thanks,  
Mr. Jorge Benitez and Mr. Chris Elbing