

## **FAQs about Havelock HS Band**

### **Can I participate in band and be in sports?**

Yes! There are many opportunities for all students at HHS to participate in sports? Some sports are easier to work around than others? For example marching band and Varsity football would not be possible, but marching band and Junior Varsity football is. Most other sports other than volleyball are easy to work with. There are no conflicts between sports and wind ensemble, symphonic band, concert band, and Jazz ensemble. The key is communication between your coaches and your band directors.

### **Do I have to participate in Marching band?**

No, marching band is strongly encouraged for our intermediate and advanced students in the band program. Members of the wind ensemble are also strongly encouraged to be in the marching band. The marching band at Havelock HS rehearses two times a week during the months of September and October from 3:45 to 6:00, and performs at home football games and band competitions. There is also a mandatory band camp prior to school beginning.

### **Where can I get information about the bands, attendance policies, performances, etc.?**

On the main page, you can go to the student handbook to get information about the bands and polices. Here is a link to our handbook. [www.havelockband.com/bandhandbook.pdf](http://www.havelockband.com/bandhandbook.pdf)

### **I'm interested in marching band percussion; How can I can I get more information about it?**

Marching band percussion is different than concert band percussion. There are many more skills that are needed to become successful at marching battery (bass drum, snare and tenors) playing than with concert band percussion. We offer master classes each spring where you can come pick up audition music and get a group lesson (**for free**) from our master percussionist instructor, Mr. Jim Boyce. These master classes happen in late April in preparation for percussion auditions in May. Please go to Mr. Boyce's Havelock Percussion site <http://web.mac.com/jamesboyce1/HavelockPercussion/Home.html>

### **I'm interested in Fall color guard (Colorguard with the marching band) ; how can I get more information about it?**

Fall colorguard begins with auditions in late April. Lyn Benitez, visual director, trains and prepares every student that comes for an audition on the last day. No experience is needed. Dance experience is welcomed and will help your audition if you are able to exhibit some of those skills well. Fall colorguard members do not receive a band credit. They should not sign up for marching band class. Band students that want to audition for colorguard should sign up for concert band so that they can continues playing their instrument.

The Fall colorguard rehearses 3 days a week after school. They are part of the marching band and travel to every performance. The fall colorguard must purchase their own uniform each season so the fee from year to year varies but is normally between \$150-\$200. This does include warm-ups, uniform including shoes.

### **How much does it cost to join band?**

Most of the bands in our program have very nominal costs. The Symphonic Band and Concert band a have no costs other than a bowtie for men. The students need to have black and white concert attire. The Wind Ensemble and Jazz Ensemble rent tuxedos for the men and ladies purchase 1 dress for their entire career in

band. Marching band and Colorguard have more expense ie. Band camp, shoes, jackets, guard uniform and trips. We offer many opportunities to fundraise to help pay some if not all of your band costs.

### **Can I get assistance to help pay for the costs associated with band?**

We offer about 5-7 different ways to raise money for band costs. Some of our fundraising programs involve selling items ie. Frozen pizza, discount cards and fruit. But we also have some other programs that involve asking for “friends and family” sponsorships, “Car-wash-a-thon” and special event ticket sales. Pay close attention to the Fundraising page on our website.

### **How do I schedule a band class for four years during high school while earning the diploma of my choice?**

There are 32 possible courses you can take during your 4 years of High School. At least 12 of those classes must be electives. I have a document that you can look at that will show you a sample 4 year plan. Every student whether they are pursuing college (2 or 4 year) or Career Technical Education can take 8 music courses. Balance your schedule out. Try not to schedule your 4 year course load in 2 ½ years. Participating in the Arts (Band, Chorus, etc...) will give you an opportunity to enjoy your 4 short years in High school.

### **How many after school rehearsals/performances are there?**

The only ensembles that rehearse regularly after school and/or weekends are marching band, indoor guard and indoor percussion. Concert and Symphonic Band and Wind and Jazz ensembles do not regularly rehearse after school.

Concert and Symphonic Band and Wind ensemble do not perform on weekends but Jazz Ensemble, Marching Band and both of the indoor groups do part perform on weekends.

### **What if I don't currently play and instrument?**

See Mr. Benitez if you are interested in joining the High School Band and you do not have any experience. Joining the band will take a lot of hard work, possibly lessons and auditioning for Mr. Benitez.

### **How am I graded in band?**

Band grades are earned by playing tests, playing quizzes, written class work, projects and written tests and quizzes. One of our goals is to make sure that students are able to enjoy music all of their lives not just be able to play some selected pieces of music.

### **Can my parents participate?**

We have a dynamic group of parent volunteers. We are trying to communicate with as many parents as possible to find out their strengths and let them know what are needs are. Signing up to be a booster, chaperone or even serve on the board or as a chairpersons is always suggested.

### **Will I have time to do my homework and participate in marching band?**

This is the biggest fear for parents and students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The high school schedule is so much different than the middle school schedule is and many times not understood very well. There are only 4 classes schedule for students daily. The amount of homework generally is less than in middle school. Good time management is needed but it is not impossible to be in marching band and get straight A's. Many students in the band do it every year.