

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 2015

Jazz Ensemble

Marching Band

-Brass & Battery Class

-Front Ensemble Class

Concert Band

Spring 2016

Jazz Ensemble

Symphonic Band (Grades 9-12)

Wind Ensemble (by audition)

Class Descriptions:

Jazz Ensemble – is a “0” period class, meaning it begins 45 minutes before 1st period and is a 2-semester class. You must take both semesters to receive credit for the year. This class meets from 6:45 to 7:25. Attendance and punctuality are expected. For the most part, this class consists of 10th-12th graders. It is a demanding organization that does quite a bit of performing. For most 8th 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.

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 14th annual band competition, participate in 1 to 2 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. Summer practices will begin after July 4th. **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. Once school begins, the regular practice schedule for the week is Tuesday and Thursday 3:00-5:30pm.

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 an honors course for all any student that qualifies. Many students aim to make this ensemble so that they can be challenged. Upcoming 9th 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 1st 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.**
- **Marching Band Percussion auditions will take place in May 13.**
- **We will have our first marching band meeting/practice on Friday May 16th at 2:00pm at HHS.**

Thanks,
Mr. Jorge Benitez