

Jefferson Forest High School Band

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Dear 2010 JF Marching Band Students & Parents,

We are in the first stages of preparation for what I have no doubt will be the best marching season in the history of the JFHS Band. We have exciting things planned for next year, not the least of which being our purchase of **brand new uniforms**, replacing the set we bought in 2000. So far, preliminary sign ups have gone very well—the numbers look very good!

We ask that a parent of each marching band member attend a meeting on Tuesday, May 11 at 6:00 PM in the Jefferson Forest High School band room so that we can answer any questions you may have, disseminate information, & go over band fee payment options. It is very important that you attend this meeting. We would like to collect the first installment of band fees at the meeting if possible. Marching Band fees are \$350/student for 2010-11. This fee pays for each students' lodging (which includes hotel, breakfast, & pizza/drinks on arrival after the competition) & transportation for USSBA National Championships in Annapolis, Maryland, a band t-shirt (which is part of the uniform, & property of the student), uniform & instrument maintenance, band camp expenses, & consumable marching band accessories. The actual cost of operating the marching band is around \$750 per student—the JF Band Boosters, Inc. subsidizes the overage (which covers things like staffing, show design, additional transportation, & equipment). Band fees can be paid in 2 installments, with the first due by June 1 (we will be set up to collect fees at the JF Spring Concert on Tuesday, June 1) and the last due on August 3 (the 2nd day of full band camp). For your convenience band fees may now be paid online through PayPal, a secure online banking entity. PayPal accepts all major credit cards. Please note that PayPal will ask for a shipping address even if the item does not require shipping (such as band fees). This information is collected to insure that payments are applied to the appropriate student. A link is available from the band website (www.jeffersonforestband.org) under the "Financial" tab. Though it has not yet been determined, approved, or otherwise made official, there is a chance that Bedford County Public Schools will assess a fee for all students participating in extracurricular activities. This fee will be, as I understand it, to offset the cost of transportation incurred by the school system in busing students to competitive events. There has been much discussion about how much will be charged, & whether the fee will be prorated according to the number of trips a given organization takes (some teams have more away games than others)—I do not know anything more specific than that at this point.

Several important documents are attached to this letter—the 1st draft of the marching band calendar & forms necessary for both band director & band booster records. As we make our plans for band camp & the fall, we need to collect a variety of information: emergency medical permission forms, parent volunteer forms, & contact information so that we will be able to facilitate smooth communication with students & parents concerning band activities. Some of the forms ask for similar or duplicate information—please fill out each form in entirety, as they will be used by different people (directors, booster officers, committee chairs, etc.) **It is essential that we have & maintain an up-to-date & accurate e-mail database of students and parents—it is by far the most effective way of communicating with the masses.** Please note that the attached calendar is a 1st Draft—there will likely be some changes as we go along. Also, with the exception of the 1st & 3rd weeks of school, we have no scheduled practices on Wednesdays for the duration of the season. Please make an effort to schedule appointments on Wednesdays to minimize rehearsal absences. **Consistent rehearsal attendance is vital to the success of the group.**

The emergency medical permission form is a blanket form that gives your child permission to participate in all band activities, including trips (see calendar), & for staff and chaperones to seek appropriate medical attention for your child if the need arises. No one will be permitted to participate in any band activity without a completed emergency medical form. This form needs to be returned by the first day of your band student's participation in marching band. **In addition to the form, please submit a photocopy of the front AND back of your insurance card.**

One of the things that make Marching Band such a special & worthwhile activity is the opportunity for parent involvement. We have a large operation, & we cannot begin to succeed without the help of many parent volunteers. On the attached volunteer form, you will find a list of opportunities to get involved & be a part of this great organization. We welcome your participation in any or all of these areas. The more people we have, the less work any individual has to do, & the more fun & fulfilling it becomes for everyone. Please consider volunteering your time & talents.

I am very excited about next year's band—I believe we are going to have a fantastic fall! Please let me know if you have any questions, or if I can help you with anything regarding your child's participation in the JF Band program.

Regards,

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www.jeffersonforestband.org