

Jefferson Forest High School Band

David Webb, Director of Bands
1 Cavalier Circle
Forest, VA 24551
(434) 525-2674, ext. 117

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Dear 2011 JF Marching Band Students & Parents,

We are in the first stages of preparation for what I hope will be the best marching season in the history of the JFHS Band. We have exciting things planned for next year. We will be competing entirely outside the USSBA circuit for the first time since 2006, giving us the opportunity to attend some new shows & compete against some bands we haven't seen for a long time. Our travel plans include an overnight trip to VA Beach & our first appearance at the James Madison University "Parade of Champions" field competition since 1998. So far preliminary sign ups have gone very well—the numbers look very good—this should be an exciting season!

We ask that a parent of each marching band member attend a meeting on Tuesday, May 17 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 (the actual due date is **June 1**). Marching Band fees are \$350/student for 2011-12. This fee pays for each student's lodging (which includes hotel, breakfast, pizza/drinks on arrival after the competition, & Sunday's lunch on the beach) & transportation for the VA Beach trip, 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, May 31) & the last due on August 3 (the 2nd day of full band camp). For your convenience band fees may 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.

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 & 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, & have all forms turned in by June 1.**

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,

David Webb, Director of Bands
Jefferson Forest High School
dwebb@bedford.k12.va.us

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