

South Hagerstown High School
1101 South Potomac Street, Hagerstown, Maryland 21740

Dear Potential South High Band Students and Parents,

Welcome to the start of an exciting marching band season. Plans are underway to design an outstanding marching band show. I encourage you to read over the following information and to consider joining us for this adventure. We enter the season as the reigning 2009 Champions of the Tournament of Bands, Chapter XIII, Group IV.

No experience is necessary for students to join our award-winning band.

The information in this letter will give you an idea of how the summer schedule looks for marching band. The dates for South Hagerstown High School Summer Band Camp (Monday through Thursday, July 26-29 and Monday through Thursday, August 2-5) will not change. This should allow plenty of time to work vacations and other summer events around our band camp. Summer Band Camp is a required event for those who choose to participate in the marching program. If a student needs to miss a portion of band camp, it will be dealt with on a situation-to-situation basis by the director. It is important for students to be at all of band camp in order to fully learn the band's fall marching show. All requests to miss part of summer band camp must be made in writing to Mr. Wilcox in advance.

Some of the times for Summer Band Camp may change, but the dates will not. The dates for Summer Band Camp are published in advance since they are the only mandatory summer rehearsals we have. Rehearsal times for the Camp and the schedule for sectional rehearsals will be finalized in early May. A letter will be sent out in May that includes rehearsal times. The online band calendar will also include these times. We wait until May to schedule times for sectional rehearsals, as we have to plan around the availability of staff. The letter sent in May will include the dates for tryouts for the Guard and the Percussion Section, and optional summer rehearsals prior to band camp. Wind players will receive their music at this time.

The dates for home football games, competitions, and parades will be included the letter sent in May. We normally participate in six or seven competitions/parades during the fall season. It is safe to assume that every Saturday between September 19 and November 7 will include a competition event. We always take off for Homecoming.

The schedule for after-school practices will be available at Summer Band Camp. Traditionally we practice Mondays and Thursdays after school until 6 p.m. Students can participate in both sports and band.

Finally, band students are enrolled in band for both semesters. Spring semester is based on participation in concert band. Students who participate in Guard are only in fall band unless they play an instrument.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at the high school, 301-766-8369, or to e-mail me at wilcohea@wcboe.k12.md.us.

Sincerely,

Mr. Heath T. Wilcox
Director of Bands