

Hilliard Darby H.S. Band

Parent/Student Meeting

Entering high school is a giant step forward in every child's educational journey. As an eighth grade student you are facing some important academic related decisions that will have a long-term impact on your life. Often young people fear the added workload of the high school curriculum and assume they will not have time to participate in the band program. That is simply not true.

Ironically, it is often the continuation of musical studies that serves as the transitional key to success. Being a member of a music ensemble ensures instant acceptance in a respected organization at the onset of freshman year. A group of supporting friends is already established with a firm sense of "belonging."

Many parents and students have questions regarding the band program at the high school level. In an effort to answer these questions the Darby band staff will be hosting a band parent meeting on:

Wednesday, February 17, at 7:00pm, in the Hilliard Darby H.S. Performing Arts Center.

The meeting will be kept short and topics will include concert band auditions, summer schedule, band camp, fall schedule, band fees, and "What if my child wants to play a Fall sport?". In the meantime, located on the back of this handout are answers to frequently asked questions.

Part of the transition into high school band involves being fitted for a band uniform as well as ordering uniforms parts. There will be two opportunities to do this; (You only need to attend one fitting session.)

Monday,	February 22	from 7:00pm - 8:30pm or
Monday,	March 1	from 7:00pm - 8:30pm.

Fittings will take place in the Hilliard Darby H.S. Experimental Theatre located in the band room hallway. The average amount of time to do this is approximately 25 minutes. Band fees will be collected at the time of the fitting. If you have any questions regarding the Hilliard Darby Band program please contact us:

E-mail: joe_burke@hboe.org

Sincerely,

Joe Burke - Jon Merritt - John Montgomery
Hilliard Darby H.S. Band Department Staff

Answers to some frequently asked questions:

Is marching band required? Yes, marching band is required for all high school band members unless they participate in a Fall sport or have a medical reason that prevents them from participating. Although a few students may be nervous about joining such a large organization, they typically find marching band a great deal of fun. It also provides a “family” in such a large school.

Are there a lot of fees? There are some fees involved with participating in band but students are given opportunities through fundraisers to defray that cost. We will discuss fees in detail at the parent meeting.

What is the summer schedule like? There are weekly rehearsals until August, at which point we begin “band camp”. With the exception of band camp, students are excused from summer rehearsals for family vacations.

What is the daily rehearsal schedule once school starts? The marching band rehearses after school until 5:00pm on Tuesday and Thursday and until 5:30pm on Wednesday. The marching band performs at 10 football games and several contests throughout the season. Students are advised to schedule doctor appointments on Mondays.

Are Fall athletes welcome in the concert band? Yes! We encourage every band student who is involved in sports to continue to be a valuable member of the concert bands.