



James Madison High School Band

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WELCOME FUTURE JMHS BAND MEMBERS!!

The James Madison High School Band would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the James Madison High School "Pride of Vienna" Band Program. The JMHS Band Program has celebrated some major accomplishments thus far:

- The Marching Band won the **2019 VMBC State Marching Band Championship** in Lynchburg, VA, in November. This is the second year in a row JMHS has been the State Champion.
- The Marching Band Won the **2019 Bands of America (BOA) Mid-Atlantic Regional Competition** in College Park, MD. This was the first time a Virginia band has won a regional in 40 years!
- The Marching Band was a semi-finalist at the **BOA Grand Nationals Competition** in Indianapolis, IN in November and 2nd place in Class 3A.
- The Band Program and Mr. Hackbarth were named as **2017 National Winners** of the prestigious National Band Association Programs of Excellence Blue Ribbon Award.
- The Band Program was named a Virginia Honor Band for the 23rd year, and Mr. Hackbarth received Special Recognition from VBODA as a 15-year Honor Band Director and was placed on the VBODA Fifteen Year Honor Roll.
- The Wind Symphony and Symphonic Band received superior ratings at the 2019 District Band Assessment – this marks the 15th year in a row that Wind Symphony and Symphonic Band have received this rating. No other school in the district has this record!

We look forward to you becoming part of the Madison Band Program and contributing to the tradition of excellence that has made it one of the most recognized band programs in the state of Virginia and the United States.

The mission of the James Madison High School Band Program is to provide the students with a first-class musical education. Participation in the performing arts fosters self-discipline, confidence, creative thinking and self-expression as well as an understanding and appreciation of music. The Band Program at James Madison High School provides a structured environment that assists students in their transition to high school. High school



band enables students to build strong character and provides positive reassurance during an often turbulent period of growth.

The James Madison High School Band Program is proud of the long tradition of success that the band and its students have established both musically and academically. In addition to the numerous awards received each year for musical performance, band students also consistently receive high academic honors. Students routinely earn some of the highest GPAs in the school, are inducted into the National Honor Society and other honor societies, and are awarded National Merit Scholarships and many other scholarships and awards. An analysis of 10 years of SAT data by the College Board has revealed that students who took 4 years of arts courses in high school scored the highest on both the math and verbal portions of the SAT, and of these high-scoring students, those who studied music all 4 years received the highest SAT scores in math and second highest in verbal/critical reasoning.

If you have any questions regarding the James Madison Band Program or James Madison High School registration, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Hackbarth at mshackbarth@fcps.edu. Additional information about the JMHS Band can also be found on the band website: www.jmhsband.org.

Please note that summer pre-school marching rehearsals (Band Camp) are estimated to start on Monday, August 2, 2021 for all participants.

The COVID-19 Pandemic will possibly impact this date as FCPS defines the start date for the 2021-22 school year and the summer activities schedules that precede it.

COMMON MARCHING ENSEMBLE QUESTIONS

Will I be in the Marching Ensemble?

All students that are in the Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, Concert Band (Advanced Band I, II, and III) and Percussion are part of the "Pride of Vienna" Marching Ensemble. Daily class is used for both marching and concert band rehearsal.

Do I have to attend Marching Ensemble summer pre-school rehearsals?

All Marching Ensemble members, including incoming Freshmen, attend all of these rehearsals which occur Mon-Fri each of the 3 weeks before school starts. Plan summer travel and activities that won't conflict with the pre-school rehearsals.

When do Marching Ensemble pre-school rehearsals begin?

The first day for all members is currently estimated to begin on Monday, August 2 and to continue daily (M-F, no weekends) until school begins. A full schedule will be set by the end of April. All students participate in all of these rehearsals.

The COVID-19 Pandemic will possibly impact this date as FCPS defines the start date for the 2021-22 school year and the summer activities schedules that precede it.

Can I participate in a Fall sport while a member of the Marching Ensemble?

No. The Fall sport for band students is Marching Ensemble, but band students participate in a wide variety of Winter and Spring sports.

Does Marching Ensemble last the entire school year?

No! The JMHS Band program is a concert-based band program. Marching Ensemble is generally over by early November.

How do I audition for drumline?

Auditions for drumline, which is called the Battery, will take place toward the end of April. There will be an informational meeting in mid-March, then a clinic at JMHS once/week for several weeks in March and April, in the evening. Auditions are usually at the end of April. Rehearsals will start for the battery and front ensemble (also called sideline percussion) in May, once/week in the evening, through the end of school. More details can be found on the band website once the schedule is set.



COMMON BAND QUESTIONS

Do I need to audition to be in the Madison High School Band Program?

NO. All students that want to be in band at JMHS are in Band. There are interviews/auditions for class placement, but not for band membership.

When are band auditions?

Audition information will be given to Middle School Band directors at the beginning of March - Auditions this year will be virtual in Google Classroom. The upload window will be in April after spring break.

Auditions will consist of a prepared piece selected by the student and major scales.

Can I participate in other clubs, sports, and organizations and still be in band?

YES!! Band students at JMHS participate in a WIDE variety of activities other than band.

Is it possible to schedule band into a sequential 4-year academic plan?

YES!! Band students can easily pursue an Advanced Diploma, take AP and Honors classes, take Academy courses, and satisfy the state graduation requirement for an Economics/Finance class and participate in band. Schedules for band students of all academic levels are easy to develop.



COURSE NUMBER: ADVANCED BAND 923416 (1 Credit)

All 8th grade band students will initially be enrolled in Advanced Band 2. Students will be placed into the correct band class/level following the May audition/interviews.

BAND CLASSES AT JAMES MADISON HIGH SCHOOL

The Madison Band program is composed of the Wind Symphony (Advanced Band III), Symphonic Band (Advanced Band II), Concert Band (Advanced Band I), the Marching Ensemble, the Percussion Ensemble, and the Jazz Band.

WIND SYMPHONY (ADVANCED BAND III)

The Wind Symphony is the Madison Band's advanced performing ensemble and concentrates on high level performance of advanced wind band literature and instrumental skill development. This ensemble performs at various concerts, festivals, symposiums, and civic events. It is expected that all members of the James Madison Wind Symphony achieve a level of individual performance indicative of private study. This ensemble is offered to any student, regardless of grade level, who can qualify musically for membership by audition. Weekly rehearsals take place on Monday afternoons (3:30-5:00) and Wednesday evenings (6:00-8:30) after the end of Marching Season. **Marching Ensemble participation is required for all Wind Symphony members.**

SYMPHONIC BAND (ADVANCED BAND II)

The Symphonic Band is James Madison High School's intermediate performing ensemble and concentrates on the high-level performance of intermediate wind band literature and instrumental skill development. After-school rehearsals take place on Wednesday and/or Thursday afternoons (3:30-5:00). These rehearsals begin after marching band season and will be called as needed by the director. **Marching Ensemble participation is required for all Symphonic Band members.**

CONCERT BAND (ADVANCED BAND I)

The Concert Band is James Madison High School's beginning performing ensemble and concentrates on the developing wind ensemble skills and instrumental skill development. After-school rehearsals take place on Wednesday and/or Thursday afternoons (3:30-

5:00). These rehearsals begin after marching band season and will be called as needed by the director. **Marching Ensemble participation is required for all Concert Band members.**

PERCUSSION CLASS (ADVANCED BAND)

The percussionists of the Madison Band program perform as members of the Marching Ensemble as well as members of the Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, and Concert Band. Percussionists are required to attend all rehearsals of the band to which they are assigned. **Marching Ensemble participation is required for all Percussion Class members.**

JAZZ BAND

The Jazz Band is a performance ensemble that focuses on the study of jazz/rock techniques and literature. Jazz Band members MUST also be members of the Wind Symphony/Symphonic Band/Concert Band or Percussion Class. Membership is by director approval/audition only. The Jazz Band appears in concerts and competes against other jazz bands in local and regional competitions.

MARCHING ENSEMBLE

The members of the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Percussion Section, and Color Guard comprise the Marching Ensemble. The Marching Ensemble participates at football games, parades, and various marching competitions. All Marching Ensemble members, including incoming Freshmen, attend the Marching Ensemble pre-school rehearsals (also called "band camp") that begin in August approximately 3 weeks before the first day of school. This year, the pre-school rehearsals start on August 3, 2020. Once school starts, weekly rehearsals take place on Monday, Thursday afternoons (3:30-6:00) and Wednesday evening (5:30-9:00) throughout marching season. Alternate times will be scheduled when needed, and rehearsal times will be shortened when warranted. Marching Ensemble members attend the entire band camp, all rehearsals, and performances.



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